

Hafa Adai!

DPS warns public of suspicious blue Nissan Versa. **PAGE 2**  
Pet dog drenched in gasoline, beaten with rocks. **PAGE 17**

75¢

# Saipan Tribune

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## Autopsies done on 3 cases

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**A** forensic pathologist flew in early this week to help the Department of Public Safety with some unsolved cases in the past year by determining the cause of deaths of the victims.

Dr. Rachel Lange, a forensic pathologist based in Hawaii, flew in last Tuesday and did an autopsy on the bodies of Li Na Lim, 43, and Linhua Cui, 53. Both were found dead inside the Rice Cake Best Food Restaurant in San Antonio in the morning of Dec. 15. See **AUTOPSIES** on **Page 4**



### **FOLLOWING SUPREME COURT RULING** **PSS wants \$3M more a month**

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Public School System is asking for an additional allotment of \$3

million from the central government following the Supreme Court's response to the question of what constitutes general revenue.

Moving forward after the Su-

preme Court ruling last Tuesday, Marylou Ada, former Board of Education chairwoman and current board member, said they are working on requesting the 25% that PSS is owed, starting off with an additional \$3 million monthly allotment

See **PSS** on **Page 4**

### **ROBO LEAGUE**

Robotics Club members at Kosrae High School are learning how to make robots. The training is intended to prepare them for the Habele Robo League. Kosrae recently joined the other three states of the Federated States of Micronesia that are participating in the Robo League, thanks to Habele's partnership with the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### **INSIDE**



#### **BUSINESS**

Tom Yum Restaurant is not just about Thai food and now features other dishes.

**PAGE 18**



#### **NATION**

House Democrats carry the articles of impeachment against President Trump to the Senate.

**PAGE 19**



#### **ASIA**

It is a very dangerous place. Yet to more than 5,000 people the Taal volcano is home.

**PAGE 20**



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# Local

## DPS warns public of suspicious blue Nissan Versa

The CNMI Department of Public Safety is warning the public to be on the lookout for a suspicious-looking blue Nissan Versa after reportedly receiving several complaints about it.

In the latest incident, DPS

said that it received a 911 call last Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2020, at about 12:30pm, reporting a criminal mischief complaint at a home in Papago. Police were dispatched to the scene.

At the scene, police met with the caller who lives in

the home, who reported a suspicious vehicle that was backed up and parked in front of his home. The owner had returned home and immediately noticed vehicle, which had its front and back plates covered with a black

tape. The vehicle had light tint and the suspect wore a black hooded jacket. After a quick inventory of the home, the owner reported nothing stolen but, was relieved he arrived home at the right time.

Since then, DPS has been receiving several calls reporting a suspicious blue-colored Nissan Versa with its front and back plates covered with black tape. Police are patrolling the islands' roads and need your help. If you see a blue Nissan Versa, call 911 and report its whereabouts.

This case remains ongoing. If you or someone you know are victims of a similar incident or have encountered suspicious vehicles in your property, don't hesitate and call 911 to report it. If you would like to remain anonymous call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. (PR)

## Ex-IPI employee's lawsuit is dismissed

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed Wednesday the lawsuit filed by a former VIP services host against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC over alleged non-payment

of overtime compensation, among other allegations.

The dismissal is with prejudice, which means Shirline Loh, who is based in Singapore, can no longer re-file the case.

Manglona gave the dis-

missal order at the request of IPI and Loh Tuesday after both parties agreed to settle the case. The judge ordered each party to bear their own costs and fees, including attorney's fees.

Manglona directed the court's clerk to vacate all hearings and close the case.

IPI's counsel, Kelley M. Butcher, and Loh's counsel, William M. Fitzgerald, told the court last Dec. 12 that both parties have agreed to settle and that they would be asking the court to dismiss the case once all documentations are completed.

Loh, a citizen of Singa-

pore, sued IPI for Fair Labor Standards Act violation—unpaid minimum wage and unpaid overtime compensation, and conversion.

In her lawsuit, Loh sought payment, among other claims, of her shares of tips designed for the VIP hosts that were allegedly wrongfully converted

by IPI for its own use.

Loh worked for IPI from Oct. 15, 2015, to August 2016.

In IPI's answer to the lawsuit, Butcher said IPI acted in good faith at all times and had reasonable grounds for believing its actions were in compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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**ANIMAL ADVOCATES TO SENATE:****'Match community's efforts'**

By IVA MAURIN  
iva\_maurin@saiplantribune.com  
REPORTER

Animal welfare was at the center of the discussion at the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government, Law and Federal Relations Committee meeting yesterday on Capitol Hill.

Advocates of animal protection rallied at the Senate to appeal to committee members to advance House Bill 21-59, HD1, which, if enacted, would prohibit cruelty and theft of animals, and would provide penalties for such acts, all over the CNMI.

"I really hope that this is where we can make a change for the better for our animals, dogs, and cats here on the island, as well as for the community," Velma Apatang Lore said. "I have done everything I can to help Saipan Cares [for Animals] and the community."

"As long as I've been back on island, I've seen the issues that we face with stray animals and it's difficult. I can only bring so much with me to my home, take care of, and then bring them over to Saipan Cares," she said.

Lore has donated the use of her own house, for Saipan Cares for Animals to use

and to help animals in need. "That is where they have their clinic, but I'm also planning on extending that as long as they need it. I hope that I've done enough to help them, our animal lovers, and the community."

Addressing the senators, Lore appealed to them to match the work that the community has done to make the islands safe for animals.

"The community has done everything to help on this matter. So, we're asking you to meet us, match what we've done, put in as much as we have by helping us meet our goals. The community is asking for your help," she said.

Another advocate, Lucy Sablan, highlighted the importance of having an anti-animal cruelty legislation in the CNMI.

"A lot of the foundations and non-profit organizations, like the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to

Animals, will not hand out grants if we don't have an anti-cruelty legislation on board," Sablan said. "That's [the] bottom line. If they know that we do [have that law], we'll be able to get some money to fund ourselves. We really want to do that. The community is behind us all. With this bill, we'll be able to get more money from mainland. That would really, really help us."

The Senate committee discussion on the bill would continue on Jan. 30 in consideration of the public comments, and the proposed amendments to the legislation, which the committee would have to review and take into consideration.

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# More tourists obtaining same-sex marriages here

By JUSTINE NAUTA  
justine\_nauta@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Of the 619 marriages that were conducted on Saipan in 2019, a total of 256 were same-sex marriages be-

tween tourists, majority of them being Chinese, according to Saipan Mayor's Office's marriage coordina-

tor Bobbi Yamada.

In 2015, when same-sex marriage became legal in the CNMI, only 12 tourist couples got married.

That means the number of same-sex marriages in the CNMI is growing, and that tourists make up 99% of those marriage here on Saipan in 2019, most of them Chinese tourists.

According to the Saipan Mayor's Office numbers, the year 2016 had 30 same-sex marriages. There were 75 such marriages in 2017. That number grew to 96 in 2018, and then jumped to a whopping 256 in 2019: 197 were for female couples, and 59 male couples. For 2019's records, it is a combination of late 2018 until

September 2019.

"Their reactions, when they learn that it's legal to get married to the same-sex here, are happy and very excited," said Yamada.

According to Yamada, China has a large LGBTQ community where they inform each other that it is legal and cheaper to get married to the same-sex in the CNMI than the U.S. mainland.

"It's more common for Chinese tourists to come on Chinese New Year just to get married," said Yamada. She mentioned that there are already 10 same-sex marriages scheduled on Feb. 28 and 29.

The marriage fee remains the same: nonresidents will still be charged \$250 and residents will be charged \$130.



Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board chair Miranda V. Manglona presides over a board meeting yesterday, in which one of the issues discussed was CUC's preparation in taking over Telesource Power Plant facility on Tinian. Telesource's 20-year contract with CUC expires on March 31, 2020. The CUC management is preparing a package that may recommend to the board a 20-year program for the winning bidder.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

## TAKEOVER

From Page 1

General have already taken two trips to Telesource to discuss the power plant's transfer to CUC.

Camacho said the power plant's owner has been helpful and directly involved in the transition requirement for CUC to take over.

Camacho said they sent a five-man crew Wednesday to Tinian to review all aspects of the facility and that the team had collected all the information they needed.

He said he is working with Guam Power Authority's John Benavente to put together a model for the contract package as they have done a lot of these in most of their plants in Guam.

Camacho said if the board agrees, the management's wants to have a 20-year program with a contractor.

One that won't require CUC to shell out large sums to pay for big repairs along the way, he said.

Camacho said that CUC board member Ike Perez also wants to ensure that they try to incorporate some sort of renewable energy in the contract package.

"I did mention that to Benavente in our discussion," he said.

In a separate interview, Camacho said they sent a team to Tinian because he and CUC want to understand the facility and know its current condition.

He said the OAG's position is that they have to advertise the contract as there is no extension for Telesource.

"The transfer of the property must be provided to CUC, according to OAG," Camacho said.

He said Telesource will also have the opportunity to rebid. "We are putting the package as quickly as pos-

sible," Camacho said.

Assistant attorney general Jose Mafnas Jr., who is the CUC counsel, said that Telesource contract expires on March 31.

"There is going to be an invitation for bid for vendors. All the vendors are going to submit their bid and we go from there," he said.

Mafnas said the length of the contract is still being discussed by the CUC management and that it's Telesource's prerogative whether to apply or not.

"Telesource can re-apply and all the vendors can," he said.

The Telesource issue was among the items that the board was set to discuss during the executive session yesterday.

The contract started in September 1997, with Telesource contracted to build and operate the power plant for \$21.6 million.

ed back in July 2019.

However, just because PSS is only asking for an additional \$3 million now doesn't mean that that's it. Ada said they would revisit negotiations once the government is back on its feet and that PSS is owed more than just \$3 million.

"Once everything is done, and everything has died down, then we can go back to the negotiating table and look at the figures and what they owe us because to immediately give them a bill saying, 'You owe us this much,' it's going to collapse the government," she said.

Ada said the BOE wants to work with the government by working out a way for PSS to get what it is owed without the government having to reduce the budget for other government entities.

"We don't want to be greedy. We

know that the case is on our side, but our main concern now...is to really get back to the schools and give the teachers the needed raise, give back what's due to them, and to really become functional [again] like we were four years ago," she said.

Ada said PSS is in dire need of the additional \$3 million because they are operating at a bare minimum and PSS is barely staying afloat.

"The cost of running the schools have increased, but our allotments have not increased; it has decreased, so we're really running on bare minimum. That was the whole essence of trying to get the rightful budget and that's why we went and got a constitutional amendment to guarantee 25% to PSS because we cannot continue to go there and continue to beg for money," she said.

## EPA

From Page 1

tal Enforcement Section, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday that the new infusion of funds is on top of the \$80 million that EPA has already given CUC to fix its water and wastewater systems since the District Court issued two mandated orders in March 2009 through January 2020.

Those orders, called Stipulated Order No. 1 and No. 2, directed CUC to implement certain projects.

SO 1 focuses on drinking water and wastewater issues, such as requiring CUC to provide safe drinking water to residents on a 24-hour basis, maintaining adequate chlorine supplies, and safely treating and discharging wastewater, among other projects. SO2 projects, on the other hand, focuses on oil issues such as requiring CUC to repair and replace oil storage units and operation infrastructure, manage tank and pipeline facilities and handle storm water runoff.

O'Brien filed yesterday before the court the U.S. government's January 2020 status report for CUC that will be discussed at a status conference this month.

Projects to be discussed at the conference include installing a dual-unit

incinerator system at CUC's Power Plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base, improving drainage systems at Power Plants 1 and 2, and at Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico, Saipan.

Other projects to be tackled include installing new horizontal storage tanks at Power Plant 4 and completing the Rota Power Plant fuel filtration or "eliminator" system.

O'Brien also disclosed that prior to the court's entry of an Engineering and Environmental Management Company order, the Department of the Interior gave CUC \$10 million for SO2 projects.

In 2014, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter selected Gilbane Federal as the EEMC, giving it the power to rapidly complete some stalled CUC projects or help CUC comply with court-mandated projects under SO2.

O'Brien said the CNMI, pursuant to the EEMC order and through \$17.8 million in DOI grants earmarked to the CNMI and \$5 million in a CNMI monetary payment, is contributing an additional \$22.8 million toward CUC's SO2 projects.

He said that since the entry in March 2009 of the two stipulated orders through January 2020, CUC will have received in excess of \$112 million from federal government agencies (\$107 million) and the CNMI (\$5 million) for SO1 and SO2 projects.

## AUTOPSIERS

From Page 1

13, 2019; and the decomposing body of a still unidentified man found in a cove of Bird Island in Marpi in Nov. 25, 2019.

The body of Sergio Apostol, 62, victim of a fatal car collision in Puerto Rico on Dec. 16, 2019, was also among the bodies to be examined but recent police investigation determined speed as a factor in the crash that claimed Apostol's life.

Lange has been a forensic medical examiner for 10 years and previously conducted her practice in New York before moving to Hawaii.

Based on Lange's autopsy report on Lim and Cui, the two women who were found dead in an establishment in San Antonio back in December 2019 were both shot. There is no suspect yet behind the shooting incident. DPS is officially ruling the deaths as a homicide.

The bodies of Lim and Cui will be released to their families once they arrive on the island.

Lange also did an autopsy on the decomposing body that was found near Bird Island back in November 2019 and ruled the cause of death as undetermined. However, possible causes of death are by falling or drowning.

The identity of the victim still remains unknown, as there are no missing person reports and no dental or medical records available to be compared to. However, an X-ray of the victim's teeth and DNA have been documented, in case any records are shared for comparison in the future.

Lange indicated in her autopsy report that the victim had a fractured clavicle and several fractured ribs on his right side, which are consistent with injuries in a fall.

The report also indicated that the victim's body had been in the water for some time.

## PSS

From Page 1

to reopen schools and to get back on track since the onslaught of Super Typhoon Yutu back in 2018.

"[The government] owes us for all the 25% but we want to really move forward and just get what we immediately need to open up the schools, repair, get the books, get the gas, and everything to get the schools running safely and in an environmentally-friendly environment. That's our main concern," she said.

Ada elaborated that the monthly allotment of \$3 million would go to gas for student transportation, personnel salary, classroom repairs, and other operational costs. This would also allow PSS to retract the 50% salary cut that was implement-

## DPS patrols pushed to prevent vandalism

By IVA MAURIN  
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REPORTER

The vandalism that defaced a latte house at the still-under-construction San Vicente Central Park has Precinct 1 Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) calling for more frequent patrols by the Department of Public Safety.

"We really need greater enforcement in our villages," Propst said. "It is heartbreaking to see [the vandalism] happening. We are a loving and caring community and precinct. There are obviously a few individuals, perhaps, that are troubled right now. The concern is that this project isn't even completed and we're already seeing vandalism."

Increased police presence and actual monitoring in the villages, according to Propst, would be a deterrent.

"If it is a budgetary issue as to why they can't patrol them, then the DPS commissioner and DPS need to let us know. If that's the case, then we have to find greater money for them, a greater budget. But they certainly have to look at all these needs in our precinct," he added.

Aside from policing by DPS, Propst is also rallying the community to volunteer and assist in establishing patrols, such as a community watch project.

"If you want to deter vandalism, it's not going to be just through higher fines and higher penalties. We already have penalties in place. It has to come down to enforcement," Propst added.

The installation of cameras is another possible solution.

"If you're going to spend that much on a park, then we should at least have some cameras put up. That's an expense that is necessary to ensure that if the cameras are on and something is seen, then it can be responded to immediately," he said.

In an earlier interview, press secretary Kevin Bautista said the Torres administration has already installed security cameras and required more community policing in specific areas, particularly in youth centers.

Bautista also assured that plans to secure the San Vicente Central Park are in place, which would include additional community policing, DPS personnel, as well as potential security through partnership with the private sector.

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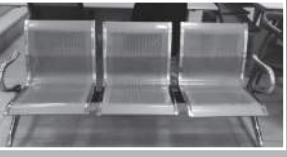
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## VOX POPULI

### Why it's important to protect the islands' animals

By JUSTINE NAUTA  
justine\_nauta@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

"We have to live with the fact that these animals live with us. They have every right to have their life uninterrupted and not suffer. If they're already here, they have the right to be here."



—Lucy Sablan

"They are living things, similar to humans. With the protection of animals, we actually protect ourselves and protect the environment."



—Brenda N. Sablan

"We coexist with animals since the beginning of time. They have the right to live on this planet. They actually have more rights than we do to live on Earth since they don't harm the world."

—Jose Sablan



"Animals are in many ways the same as human beings. We consider them our best friend or a part of our family. Why would anyone want to do anything cruel to a family member? I strongly believe in animal rights and the need to protect them from violence and danger."

—Sally Limes





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## SSHS alumni completes Air Force training



Espinosa

Saipan Southern High School alumni Daryl Jedge "D.J." Elayda Espinosa has completed his basic training with the U.S Air Force and is currently enrolled at the U.S. Wright-Patterson Air Force Base technical school, where he is taking up Bio Environmental Engineering.

Espinosa, who graduated with the 322nd Squadron in Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas, last December, graduated from SSHS in 2016.

He completed an intensive, eight-week program.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Espinosa is the son of Darius and Grace Joy Espinosa, the brother of Chanel, Nicole Joy, and Jayden Keith Espinosa, and the partner of Donnatella Grace Guzman. (Kimberly A. Bautista)

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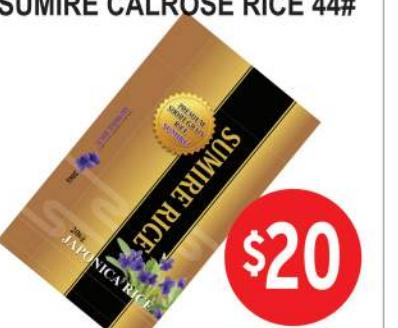
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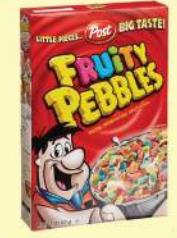
SEIKO & CASIO WATCHES

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## SIS students explore NMI Museum and Sugar King Park

Three large buses brought Saipan International School students from first grade through sixth grade to the NMI Museum of History and Culture last Friday, Jan. 10, in a journey that gave them a brief look of artifacts from the CNMI's distant past.

Several classes also ventured out during a break in last Friday's rain to examine more historical sights across the street at the Sugar King Park.

Most of the students reported that they found the Spanish galleon treasure display at the NMI Museum most interesting, specifically mentioning the gold jewelry and the large, ceramic jugs used for transporting valuables, while others were more fascinated by the war artifacts, particularly the medical kits carried by Japanese and American soldiers. One student was excited by the display showing Chamorro slings and projectiles, having once found one of the antique, stone artifacts while playing on the SIS campus.

The field trip was the culminating activity in a week dedicated to learning about local history, culture, and wildlife as part of a month-long series of four thematic weeks organized around SIS's hosting over 100 Ko-



Saipan International School students pose at the statue of the sugar king himself, Haruji Matsue, at the Sugar King Park.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

rean students here for the month of January. SIS students will be working alongside their Korean classmates for the entire month, explor-

ing a different thematic focus each week, learning and creating projects that will be shared over the final few days of the program. (PR)



Saipan International School students pose in front of a non-working sugar train at the Sugar King Park.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Saipan International School students pose in front of the NMI Museum of History and Culture last Friday, Jan. 1.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## LUCKY DRIVER!

Purchase five gallons of fuel or more and you'll be automatically entered to win a 2020 Toyota RAV4 when you scan your Lucky 7 card! We'll choose one finalist each week, with the last day to enter on February 4, 2020.

\*Some conditions may apply. No purchase necessary. See store for complete details.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS WEEK'S WINNER

**Mcjoseph Mario Socorro**

## And the nominees are...

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce would like to share the nominees for the 2019 Small Business of the Year, 2019 Nonprofit of the Year, 2019 Chamber Member of the Year, and 2019 Saipan Young Professional of the Year.

### SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Nominees for 2019 Small Business of the Year include Caravan Restaurant, Island Training Solutions, and Naked Fish Bar & Grill. The criteria for small business of the year included the following: (1) Less than 25 employees or less than \$1 million in gross revenue; (2) must have a business license and operating on Saipan for at least one year. Nominees were chosen by the Chamber membership.

### Caravans Restaurant

With a glimpse of the Middle East, Caravans Restaurant brings to life a true wholesome experience on delicious style of Palestinian cuisine. Inspired by authentic flavor combinations, their menu offers a fresh and fast casual take on a traditional shared dining experience. Caravans' recipes are memories from the owner, Salam Younis', father's kitchen, and he commits to serving simple, honest and flavorful food that is good

for you. They are happy to share this experience from Jerusalem to Saipan.

### Island Training Solutions

Island Training Solutions is a full-service professional training and consulting group that provides compliance and development training to numerous businesses, government agencies and non-profits and has supported workforce development and re-entry programs for the Public School System, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and CNMI Women's Association. ITS is also a service provider for Latte Training Academy, providing global and national certifications in Hospitality and Business from the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute and National Bookkeepers Association respectively certifying over 800 CNMI residents in various professional concentrations.

ITS gives back to the community through support of various clarities, non-profits and causes exceeding \$5000 in 2019. Nominees were chosen by the Chamber Membership.

### 500 Sails

500 Sails is a CNMI tax-exempt non-profit and federally recognized 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the revival, promotion and support of traditional canoe culture

See NOMINEES on Next Page

### Naked Fish Bar & Grill

Naked Fish Bar & Grill is a locally owned and operated restaurant established in 2004. They focus on sourcing and highlighting local goods and talent to create a fresh and mod-

### NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR

Nominees for 2019 Nonprofit of the Year include 500 Sails, the American Red Cross-Northern Marianas Chamber, the Salvation Army, and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation. The criteria for nonprofit of the year included the following: (1) Must have local or federal 501(c) documentation; (2) have been operating on Saipan for at least one year; and services render to the Saipan residents. Nominees were chosen by the Chamber Membership.

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**NOMINEES***From Page 9*

in the CNMI as a strategy to bring about positive and permanent changes in lifestyles to improve health outcomes, strengthen cultural identity and lead to a more competitive and successful local workforce for the tourism industry. As a direct result of their programs, thousands of local youth have new awareness and pride in our community's indigenous maritime heritage; hundreds have learned to swim; hundreds have experienced riding on an indigenous sailing canoe; and there are now opportunities for anyone interested to learn to swim, to sail, to build and to own their own canoe.

**American Red Cross-  
NMI Chapter**

Since opening its doors in the CNMI in 1978, the American Red Cross has worked to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and generosity of donors. In 2019, the ARC continued this tradition by guiding residents through recovery from Super Typhoon Yutu, preparing for near miss storms, and offering care for residents struck by flooding and fire loss. As a trusted member of the community, ARC has driven recovery for decades.

**Salvation Army**

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

**Tan Siu Lin Foundation**

Since 1985, the Tan family, headed by Tan Holdings founder and chair Dr. Tan Siu Lin, has been very active in philanthropic work for the community both in the CNMI and Guam and in 2002, Dr. Tan formed the Tan Siu Lin Foundation to further promote the culture of giving back. Tan Siu Lin Foundation and its generous partners are committed to leading and supporting various programs, be it about health, education, sports, arts and culture, environment, tourism, and other initiatives that benefit our community and its residents. Giving back and making a difference in the community and people's lives will help ensure that the island paradise we call home will always be a better place to live in.

**CHAMBER MEMBER  
OF THE YEAR**

Nominees for the 2019 Chamber Member of the Year include Aon Insurance, CNMI Small Business Development Center, First Hawaiian Bank,

Friends First Marketing, IT&E, and Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Incorporated. Criteria included the following: 1) Be a member for one year, 2) Have one representative attend at least 20% of Committee meetings, and 3) Participate in at least one Chamber event/initiatives. Final nominees based on the criteria were selected from the Saipan Chamber Board of Directors.

**Pacifica Insurance  
Underwriters Inc.**

Pacifica Insurance opened in 1973 with the goal to provide the best coverage and service that will exceed expectations. Within the Chamber, Pacifica continues to support many of their programs. Representative Jane Madarang supported the Education and Workforce Development Committee, assisting with planning for the Saipan Chamber Scholarship Program and the High School Career Exploration Day. Representative Janel Pangelinean served on the Saipan Young Professionals board, participating in all SYP and Chamber events including Business Person of the Year, the Golf Tournament, Pitchfest, the Corporate Challenge, bringing speaker Coach Pain to Island, and the SYP toys for Tots Program. She was also named SYP of the Year in 2016. Additionally, Pacifica Insurance was the first to host the SYP

Mixer event and has sent many of their staff to Chamber trainings, participated in the Career Exploration Day and Business Expo, sponsored the SYP Coach Pain event, sponsored monthly newsletter ads and always provided an assortment of in-kind giveaways for many events.

**Aon Insurance**

Aon Insurance is a leading global professional services firm providing a broad range of risk, retirement and health solutions. Within the Chamber, Aon helped coordinate and fund many Chamber initiatives. Representative Shayne Villanueva served as the Chair of the Saipan Young Professionals Board, led and supported SYP Trainings, helped bring speaker Coach Pain to island, and assisted the Toys 4 Tots program. Additionally, Aon Insurance sent their staff to Chamber trainings, participated in the Career Exploration Day, sponsored the 2018 BPOY Gala, Pitchfest, the Chamber Golf Tournament, and the SYP Coach Pain event.

**CNMI Small Business  
Development Center**

The CNMI Small Business Development Center supports the growth and economic development in the CNMI by providing high quality training and one-to-one confidential counseling to existing small businesses and to

small business start-ups. Within the Chamber, Representative Nicole Babauta has been instrumental in the planning of many workforce and small business-related Chamber events. She co-chairs the Education and Workforce Development Committee, sits on the board of the Saipan Young Professionals, and participates in the Business Advancement and Sustainable Economic Development Committees. Events Nicole has helped spearhead include the inaugural Pitchfest, the Saipan Chamber Scholarship Program, the Business Expo, Coach Pain, Career Exploration Day, and Toys 4 Tots.

**Friends First  
Marketing, Inc**

Friends First Marketing, Inc.'s expertise is in bringing new patients to the dental community. Within the Chamber, representative Donna Krum, is known as the "Chamber Cheerleader." She Co-Chairs the Sustainable Economic Development and Membership Committees and actively engages in the Business Advancement Committee. Donna supported the planning of the Business Expo, Pitchfest, and New Member Orientations. Friends First Marketing also sponsored the inaugural Pitchfest and attended SCC Trainings.

**First Hawaiian Bank**

First Hawaiian Bank is Ha-

waii's oldest and largest bank, ready to assist customers with all their financial needs, be it personal, private or business banking. Within our Chamber, representative Vickie Izuka has consistently supported our youth through the Education and Workforce Development Committee, assisting with the Saipan Chamber Scholarship and Career Exploration Day. As a company, First Hawaiian Bank was very active with Chamber events, participating in the Corporate Challenge, the Business Expo, and Career Exploration Day. FHB also sponsored the Saipan Chamber Golf Tournament, provided many giveaways for events, and continues to provide banking support to the Chamber.

**IT&E**

IT&E encourages customers to "explore your world" on the widest 4G LTE network in the Marianas and Guam. Within our Chamber, representatives Natasha Tomokane and Michelle Cruz are active on the Events Committee, assisting with the 2018 Business Person of the Year Gala and Saipan Chamber Golf Tournament. As a company, IT&E is one of our inaugural "President's Circle" members, further supporting our membership by increasing their engagement. IT&E also participated in the Corporate Challenge and Ca-

See **NOMINEES** on Next Page



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management  
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315  
[www.dcrm.gov.mp](http://www.dcrm.gov.mp)



Janice E. Castro  
Director, DCRM

## PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL  
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

**DATE: January 17, 2020**

**NOTICE:** The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination request from the United States Department of the Navy regarding the Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS)

More information about the proposed activity can be accessed via the following website: <https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/2019 DEC 13 U N465 1492 CNMI-DCR M-trn-ltr-16-DEC-19-TO-MS.-REYES.pdf> and <https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/2019 DEC 10 U N465 1467 ENCL-TO C NMI-DCRM-trn-ltr-10-DEC-19.pdf>

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan. Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at [FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp](mailto:FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp).

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for thirty (30) days, comment period began on January 7, 2020 and will end on February 7, 2020. This comment period has been extended to give the public a sufficient opportunity to develop and provide comments on whether the proposed project is consistent with management program enforceable policies. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.



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Janice E. Castro  
Director, DCRM

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

MARPO HEIGHTS PHASE II HOMESTEAD SUBDIVISION  
PERMIT APPLICATION NO. TMS-2020-X-006

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed Marpo Heights Phase II Homestead Subdivision project in Tinian.

The Department of Public Lands is proposing to develop the Marpo Heights Phase II Homestead Subdivision in a rural area identified as Lot No. 271-T-73, measuring about 51.7 ha or 128.5 acres of land. The proposed homestead subdivision is comprised of 456 residential lots, a park, and ponding basin.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for **Monday, February 10th, 2020, at 4:30PM, in San Jose, Tinian. Venue for the public hearing will be announced at a later date.**

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Marpo Heights Phase II Homestead Subdivision project.

/s/ Janice E. Castro  
Director  
Division of Coastal Resources Management



# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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## EDITORIAL

### Europe puts the squeeze on Iran—finally

One danger Iran presents to the world is ideological, but the greatest threat it poses is nuclear. If Iran, a regime with ties to terrorism, were to develop weapons of mass destruction, then global security would be imperiled.

The United States recognizes the risks. That's why President Donald Trump is using sanctions to compel Iran to renegotiate the 2015 nuclear agreement. He saw the deal as too weak and too narrow. So how about America's European allies who also were signatories: Where do they stand on strengthening the accord? For more than a year, we've supported U.S. calls for the United Kingdom, Germany and France to step up. They've equivocated — partly for fear of confrontation, partly to maintain business relationships.

On Tuesday, however, those three countries finally made an important move against Iran. While the trio didn't accede to Trump's wishes and join the U.S. in withdrawing from the deal, they did take action: The Europeans warned Iran that it must abide by terms of the deal or face reinstatement of United Nations sanctions. This shifts Europe closer to the U.S. position and turns up the pressure on the mullahs in Tehran.

Why is Iran so dangerous? Iran has never stopped seeking to become a regional power through disruptive force and proxy attacks. It supports Hezbollah, the terrorist army based in Lebanon, and Shiite militias in Iraq. The nuclear deal, signed by President Barack Obama, sought to put a cap in the weapons bottle, but it contained sunset clauses on development and failed to address Iran's support of terrorism and pursuit of ballistic missiles.

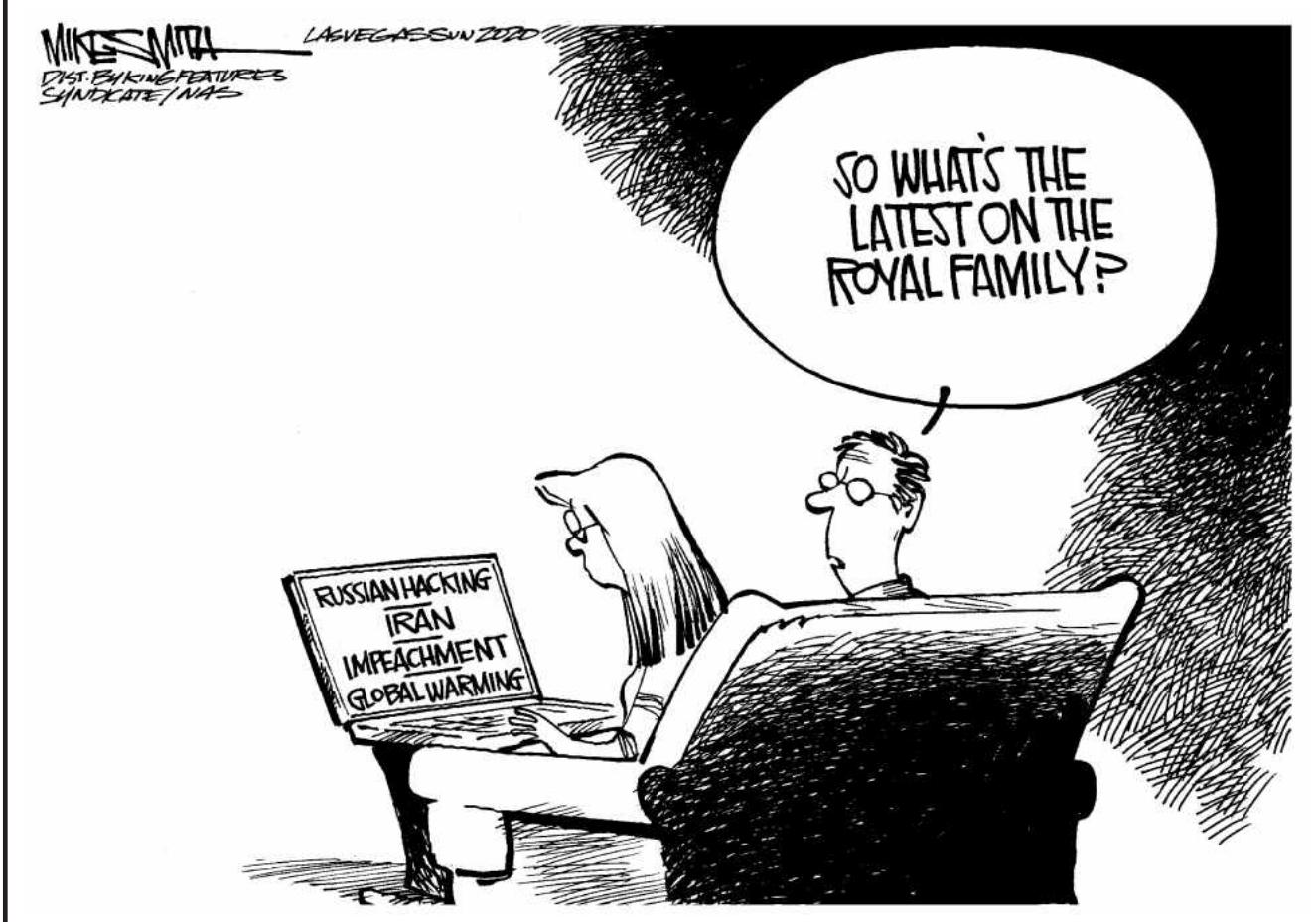
We reluctantly supported the 2015 deal, yet we see what Trump sees: a continual threat that must be addressed. We believe that with Europe's help, the United States has the opportunity to bring Iran to heel and then support its growth as a peaceful state.

There's plenty of reason to both mistrust Iran and seek a negotiated settlement with this menacing foe. U.S. sanctions have bitten hard. In response, Iran has been pulling away from the deal, which the Europeans still want to save — and now expand.

At the same time, Iranian aggression has been on the rise. Iran shot down a U.S. surveillance drone and is believed to be responsible for attacks on oil tankers moving through the Strait of Hormuz. After Iranian-backed militias organized violent demonstrations at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Trump ordered a drone attack that killed Iranian Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani. He was commander of the Revolutionary Guards' Quds Force and the master of Iranian mayhem.

Tensions between the U.S. and Iran appear to have cooled — at least temporarily. That gives the Europeans a window to start their own talks with Tehran, backed by the threat of sanctions. Technically, the Europeans initiated a dispute mechanism contained in the 2015 accord to force Iran back into compliance. But they also want to start negotiations over Iran's missiles and regional adventurism.

See EUROPE on Next Page



### Let's stick to reality, and facts

While the House minority bloc was accused of spreading lies and for being divisive by the president of the NMI Republican Party in a recent press release, we minority members continue to keep our constituents informed on important issues affecting the Commonwealth, regardless of whether it is politically popular or not.

While we are told by our critics to respect the vote, we must also ensure we respect the law. The Commonwealth Constitution's Article X Section 6 is very clear: ... "the government shall retire the deficit during the second consecutive fiscal year following the year." The administration has run a deficit in the last three fiscal years, which violates Commonwealth law.

And here is what is so absurd. In an effort to try and retire the deficit, the government is actively trying to float an obligation bond. In other words, we will reduce the deficit by getting deeper into debt. That makes about as much sense as getting more credit cards to get out of credit card debt.

Has the government been overspending? The answer is, yes. This is a *fact* based on real numbers submitted in annual reports and in audits.

Can all our problems be blamed on typhoons? The answer is no, and the following paragraphs prove this.

In 2016, the CNMI finished the fiscal year with a \$16-million surplus. Please note that we finished with a surplus even after Super Typhoon Soudelor devastated Saipan, at a time when we were still recovering.

In fiscal year 2017, there was an \$8-million deficit.

In fiscal year 2018, there was a \$26-million deficit. The deficit tripled in one year, before Super Typhoon Yutu even existed, before it ever hit us.

And in fiscal year 2019, there was a \$98-million deficit, which originally was blamed entirely on Yutu, but now there are new culprits to blame, such as medical referral costs.

The fact is, medical referral has always been a huge expense for the CNMI. While medical referral costs ballooned to \$16 million in 2019, that amount was only \$3 million more than in fiscal year 2018.

So what are the solutions to our economic woes? Well, the administration and legislative leadership want revenue generating bills, which so far have translated to expanding gambling and raising taxes.

The minority believes we should do a better job with enforcement, with collecting taxes owed the CNMI government, and that no businesses get preferential treatment.

Right now, IPI owes the CNMI government tens of millions of dollars, and no one is holding them accountable. Why isn't the DPW secretary, who is the president of the GOP, insisting that IPI pay their developer's infrastructure tax? Why does IPI

**By EDWIN K. PROPST**  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan) is the minority leader of the CNMI House of Representatives in the 21st Legislature, representing Precinct 1.*



get a special pass when other businesses do not? Why isn't IPI paying the estimated \$18 million they owe for the developer's infrastructure tax? That money could certainly help improve our infrastructure. Part of that money owed could be used to install a much-needed traffic light right by the casino/Cha/Garapan Elementary School intersection. Part of it could be used to enhance the Paseo de Marianas and its surrounding streets and areas, something sorely needed right now.

The administration wants to reduce the costs of medical referral. Then why isn't Gov. Torres insisting that IPI pay for an MRI for the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.? This alone would reduce medical referral costs significantly. IPI owes the CNMI people \$37 million in its contractually obligated community benefit fund, so an MRI could easily be purchased by utilizing the fund. Instead of the administration spinning the facts about the community benefit fund, why not explain to the public why it is not being used to help our people, as it was originally designed to do? Why even bother having it in the casino license agreement if it is not being honored?

The truth is, this government has a problem with runaway spending, and they don't want to acknowledge or deal with it. Full time employment positions under the administration have exploded while revenue projections have fallen short in the last three years. Travel has also exploded, with first-class travel and junkets that make taxpayers cringe.

For the record, the minority is not crying over a devastating loss from the last election, as falsely claimed by the president of the GOP. We accepted the people's vote and went to work. We continue to work. There are six of us who may be minority members, but we work and serve with the leadership in committees and respect each other in and out of the office. Our friendships in the Legislature are important to us, and so is kindness, civility, and decorum. The battles we have during debates in sessions or

See LET'S on NEXT Page

**Editor's Note:** Bruce Bateman's "Sour Grapes" column will not be published today.

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## Deathly silence

**T**here's silence at the break of dawn, beautiful though unsettling, given troubling geopolitical issues on the internet flashing events unfolding near and far.

Across the sea, there are the 260,000 homeless families in the golden state of California. Troubling that even with federally funded home projects it's still unaffordable for those who need it the most.

This is because it costs about \$549,000 per unit. It's beyond the reach of most hardworking folks. Moreover, home rental in the golden state is equally expensive. It contributes to the growing home crisis!

Can't imagine the hardship families have to endure in cold weather during the winter months. Yes, I've seen people in poverty between New York and California. It simply ruined my day as I return to my hotel. Appalling that some 46 million fellow countrymen are in poverty.

It's stuck in mind, quizzing if it's the lack of job opportunities or the shutter of jobs as companies close down to move elsewhere? It's good to know hospitals have begun small real estate businesses to send patients to decent dwellings following treatment.

What's your assessment for this year? More of the same *da kine que sera* or is there a fully thought-out set of plans to guide the long journey ahead? Perhaps I ought to listen to Magoo who related, "Eh, braddah, we waiting some mo', yeah?"

It's here where leadership or followership illuminates in no uncertain terms. We seem stuck in the latter or am I pointing out the obvious?

**Shortfall**

Fund shortage is as perennial as the grass for most island governments. Revenue depends on economic activities and expands, stagnates, declines, or seesaws unpredictably each fiscal year. At day's end, we simply share what we have in the coffers.

Unless additional large investments descend in the islands it simply means we must focus on how do we share what's in the local treasury. It also mandates leadership to concentrate on improving upon investments beyond conventional wisdom. In brief, the rest of what lies ahead—revenue generation—is on investments.

**Resetting**

Said Senate President Vic Hokog: "It need not be the case if we focus collectively on current investments by improving upon them with renewed focus, enthusiasm, focus and persistence." True, any appreciable success on this effort ought to generate

**LET'S**

*From Page 12*

committee meetings come with the job. It is nothing personal, and we are grateful to the speaker and our colleagues for the mutual respect we continue to give each other.

If we want to make things better for the CNMI, then all elected and appointed officials need to remember that everyone has a seat at the table. *Everyone*. And that includes the House minority and the general public we serve, regardless of citizenship, race, religion, income, or political affiliation.

Please know that true progress and real solutions are only achieved when we deal with reality. And the reality is, we need to be more fiscally conservative. We also need to ensure no business gets special privileges and passes. If we want to attract new industries and investors, then they must be ensured the CNMI offers a level playing field for all businesses, large or small, old or new. All we ask in return is that they respect and follow all local, state, and federal laws. It is that simple.

**EUROPE**

*From Page 12*

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson took Trump's side in a television interview Tuesday, supporting a full renegotiation of the nuclear agreement. "If we're going to get rid of it, let's replace it, and let's replace it with the Trump deal," Johnson said.

U.S. sanctions are punishing, but Europe is a lot closer to Iran and has its own economic ties. The U.K., Germany and France also remain committed to the nuclear deal.

The tougher Europe gets on Iran, the more likely it is the U.S. strategy will work.

more revenue.

"A little effort and help should awaken the aspiration of our people to regroup and move on," related Sen. Terry Santos. With constructive coaching and help, each should succeed in his/her business venture. "Just taking the first step is very encouraging in their quest to make a difference," she said. Call it reinventing!

**Others**

Australia is dealing with its mega-fire, D.C. the impeachment debacle, Iran with leadership issue, earthquakes near RP, and the apparent *que sera* mood on the islands. Unplanned events occur forcing our dealing with the consequence of what subsequently descends.

I've kept my ears to the ground to see what's coming down the hill but there's also a lot of "natting"! I have a sense why the obvious silence throughout the villages. It's hardship in family homes forced by poverty income right here in paradise.

I know what poverty entails having literally lived it. It's woefully troubling if this is the common denominator among households here.

What's the role of the elected elite on this score? Specifically, have you done anything concrete to improve the lot of people you represent or "not yet, already"?

Moreover, departments and agencies responsible for social programs for the poor who need assistance need to pull their sleeves forthwith and get to work.

**Politics**

The Dems and GOP have begun organizing the "biba" slugfest for this election year. I think by July political planks from both sides should be available for cursory review. Would any ably offer

## Torres and GOP leaders owe the CNMI an apology and an explanation

*Editor's Note: The following is a statement issued yesterday by the NMI Democratic Party.*

The Democratic Party respectfully provides the following statements in response to an article published in Monday's newspaper wherein the GOP president publicly proclaimed his support for a beleaguered governor, irrespective of mounting evidence of misuse and abuse of public funds and an ongoing federal criminal investigation.

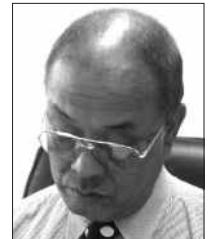
It is strange that the GOP president felt the need to voice his support for the governor instead of offering his party's reassuring support to the people of the CNMI who are being victimized by Gov. Torres' un-repentant transgressions. It is hard to understand why the leadership of the Republican Party sacrifices the integrity of its membership to rescue the titular head of the GOP who has brought shame and untold future damage to his organization. From the outside, it appears that the GOP president is simply pledging his allegiance to the governor in total disregard for the truth. The truth is that the governor is a subject of a federal criminal investigation, as documented by the publicized raids on the Governor's Office and his family's private residence through search warrants signed by a federal Judge indicating the probable commission of a crime. Additionally, Guam's Kandit News has publicized a plethora of highly questionable expenditures by the governor. These unrestrained and conscious attempts to raid the CNMI Treasury are now a matter of public record.

The Republican leadership has had more than 32 years of opportunities to improve the lives of our people and the entire Commonwealth, yet all they have to show for it are budget deficits, pay cuts, and an unfinished casino that can't keep its promises, can't pay its bills and is at the very core of a corruption investigation under the federal RICO statute for "organized crime" in the CNMI. We find it odd that Imperial Pacific can pay its monthly obligations to several high-profile local consultants but has yet to pay millions of dollars in contractual obligations to the CNMI and our local vendors. What's even more insulting is that our Republican governor and his administration stand by and allow it, and refuse to take any action.

The GOP press release seemed like a desperate attempt to paint the governor as a victim of the FBI's investigative overreach and to appeal for public sympathy. The Democratic Party takes the position that, if anyone deserves our sincerest sympathy, it is the hardworking people of the CNMI and the governor's children, who are the innocent bystanders of all their father's dishonor-

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.*

quality candidates or do we settle for mediocrity in redundancy?

Should be interesting how each side plans to dispose of poverty income among nearly 15,000 employees here. It's the quality of family life, isn't it? Must see solid and realistic proposals not just pay plans drowning in mediocrity without actual funds.

**CashNo!**

Meanwhile, we wanted to satisfy instant gratification for more mullahs and so we pushed for casino in hopes of raking-in millions of dollars, annually.

We now have casino. Has it worked and what's the revenue like today? Have we collected the millions projected in our faint-ed imagination or...?

Some 43 states have casinos, most of which are begging the poor to drop pennies, nickels and dimes for some business income, according to an FN article.

This experience is easily replicated here maybe by asking food stamps recipients to pitch in. Imagine this occurring here. Our country (U.S.) is over-casinoed!

## Torres and GOP leaders owe the CNMI an apology and an explanation

able behavior. No one wants to see the office of the leader of the CNMI raided by federal law enforcement officials. The general membership of the Democratic Party deeply extends their heartfelt and profound sympathy to the people of the CNMI, along with the young and innocent members of the governor's family who have to go through these traumatizing and painful ordeals.

The GOP president's continued support of Gov. Torres—a governor who has taken advantage of his own party, the people of the Commonwealth, and is clearly in legal peril—is, in our opinion, misplaced loyalty. The Democratic Party believes that when "disloyalty to our people begins, loyalty to the party ends." This is the fundamental difference between the Democrats and the leadership of the Republican Party.

A defense of the governor's actions cannot be made through press releases. It must be done through facts. The GOP president's blind loyalty and perceived stonewalling of investigations into the governor's actions and spending are indefensible. The real victims here are the citizens of the CNMI, not a governor who has violated his duties to the people and tarnished the integrity of his office. The best and most qualified defender of Gov. Ralph Torres is Ralph Torres himself, the truth, nothing but the truth, so help him God.

The governor and the GOP leaderships have betrayed the people with their lies and yet, with everything that have been uncovered, they appear to be "untouchable" as they see nothing wrong to even apologize. Gov. Torres has caused so much division within this community that it takes a strong leader to repair the destruction he has done. The governor owes the people, especially the children of the Commonwealth, the absolute truth to explain why his office and his family home was raided by the FBI. Why an FBI subpoena, signed by federal Judge Mona Manglona, was served to him?

Gov. Torres also needs to clearly explain to the entire citizens of the Commonwealth his off-island travel escapades. What particular benefit did the people of the CNMI got out of these off-island expensive travels? How can he explain his unbelievable requests for monetary reimbursements at a time when the people of the Commonwealth are suffering?

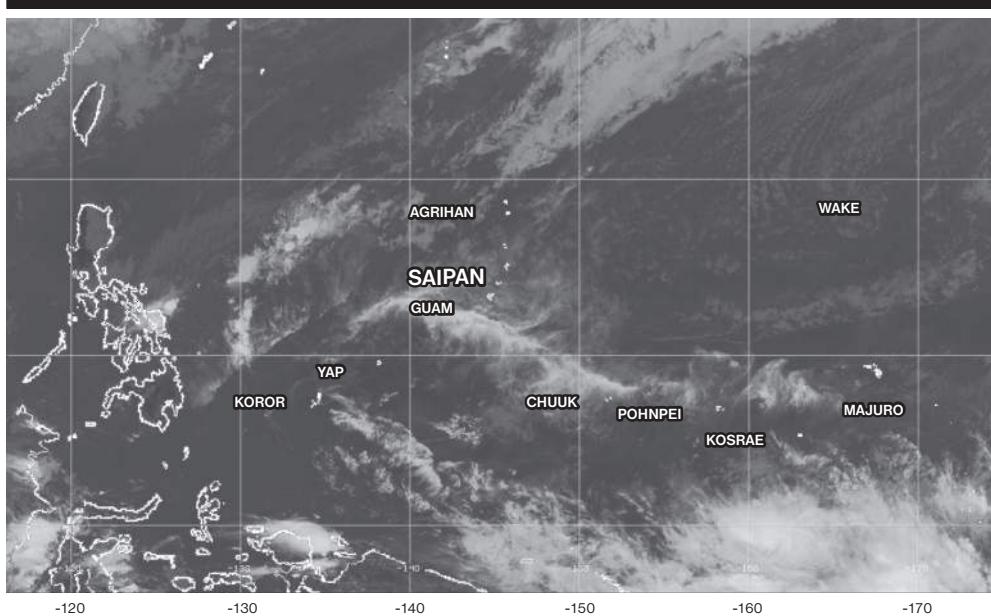
If Gov. Torres cannot do so and the president of the GOP cannot help him, he must resign. There is absolutely no point in prolonging the inevitable. These are the times for a strong leader to courageously expose wrong and accepts the truth. Please, governor, spare this community from the agony of despair.

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY   | SATURDAY                             | SUNDAY                               | MONDAY                              | TUESDAY                              |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|   |                                      |                                      |                                     |                                      |
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 5 to 15 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| 88°   | 74°                                  | 88°                                  | 76°                                 | 88°                                  |
| 76°   | 87°                                  | 75°                                  | 87°                                 | 75°                                  |

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



## PICTURE TIME: 7:23 AM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Trade winds are forecast to subside to gentle or moderate levels late Friday into Saturday. With light winds, lower dewpoints, cool ocean temps 81-82F and the possibility of mostly clear skies...low 70s are possible at dawn, especially for sheltered valleys. Dry season pattern persists through the forecast period. Still looks like a greater chance of clouds/showers will push through early next week as trade flow ramps up and a few very weak trade-wind troughs pass through and a shear line attempts to drop down from the north.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

| MICRONESIA    |               | ▲   | ▼ | °F  |
|---------------|---------------|-----|---|-----|
| Guam and Rota | Partly Cloudy | 84° | / | 75° |
| Palau         | Mostly Sunny  | 85° | / | 77° |
| Yap           | Mostly Sunny  | 85° | / | 79° |
| Chuuk         | Partly Cloudy | 83° | / | 79° |
| Pohnpei       | Partly Cloudy | 85° | / | 78° |
| Kosrae        | Mostly Cloudy | 85° | / | 78° |
| Majuro        | Partly Cloudy | 86° | / | 81° |

| AROUND THE GLOBE |               | ▲   | ▼ | °F  |
|------------------|---------------|-----|---|-----|
| Auckland         | Mostly Sunny  | 73° | / | 61° |
| Beijing          | Mostly Sunny  | 41° | / | 23° |
| Hong Kong        | Partly Cloudy | 70° | / | 64° |
| Honolulu         | Showers       | 80° | / | 70° |
| London           | Showers       | 48° | / | 36° |
| Los Angeles      | Mostly Sunny  | 64° | / | 49° |
| Manila           | Mostly Sunny  | 90° | / | 73° |
| Melbourne        | Partly Cloudy | 81° | / | 61° |
| Miami            | Showers       | 76° | / | 70° |
| New York         | Sunny         | 31° | / | 23° |
| Osaka            | Mostly Sunny  | 52° | / | 37° |
| Paris            | Showers       | 52° | / | 36° |
| Busan            | Sunny         | 48° | / | 34° |
| Rome             | Partly Cloudy | 57° | / | 39° |
| Salem            | Mostly Cloudy | 58° | / | 47° |
| San Francisco    | Mostly Cloudy | 53° | / | 44° |
| Seoul            | Partly Cloudy | 41° | / | 23° |
| Tokyo            | Cloudy        | 46° | / | 36° |
| Washington, DC   | Mostly Sunny  | 37° | / | 27° |

## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET |           |      |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------|
| 6:31 AM                         | LOW TIDE  | 0.14 |
| 1:14 PM                         | HIGH TIDE | 1.80 |
| 8:03 PM                         | LOW TIDE  | 0.43 |
| -                               | -         | -    |

| DAY      | SUNRISE | SUNSET  |
|----------|---------|---------|
| Today    | 6:46 AM | 6:06 PM |
| Saturday | 6:46 AM | 6:07 PM |
| Sunday   | 6:46 AM | 6:07 PM |
| Monday   | 6:47 AM | 6:08 PM |
| Tuesday  | 6:47 AM | 6:09 PM |

| DAY      | MOONRISE | MOONSET  | MOONRISE |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Today    | -        | 11:51 AM | -        |
| Saturday | 12:28 AM | 12:35 PM | -        |
| Sunday   | 1:24 AM  | 1:20 PM  | -        |
| Monday   | 2:21 AM  | 2:06 PM  | -        |
| Tuesday  | 3:18 AM  | 2:56 PM  | -        |

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website: [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 6, 2020

| DEPARTURES                    |        |         |                  | ARRIVALS                      |         |          |                  |
|-------------------------------|--------|---------|------------------|-------------------------------|---------|----------|------------------|
| <b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b>      |        |         |                  | <b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b>      |         |          |                  |
| UA117                         | 9:15am | 9:55am  | Daily            | UA174                         | 7:30am  | 8:11am   | Daily            |
| UA156                         | 6:20pm | 7:00pm  | 2, 4, 6          | UA112                         | 4:45pm  | 5:26pm   | 2, 4, 6          |
| <b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b>    |        |         |                  | <b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b>    |         |          |                  |
| SKY816                        | 4:35pm | 7:30pm  | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 | SKY811                        | 10:15am | 3:00pm   | Daily            |
| SKY816                        | 5:05pm | 8:00pm  | 6                |                               |         |          |                  |
| <b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b>     |        |         |                  | <b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b>     |         |          |                  |
| 7C3451                        | 3:20am | 6:30am  | Daily            | 7C3452                        | 9:35pm  | 2:30am+1 | 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
|                               |        |         |                  | 7C3452                        | 10:05pm | 2:30am+1 | 3                |
| <b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b>     |        |         |                  | <b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b>     |         |          |                  |
| TW308                         | 2:05am | 6:05am  | Daily            | OZ623                         | 6:45am  | 12:10pm  | 5                |
| OZ626                         | 2:10am | 6:05am  | 1                | OZ623                         | 7:00am  | 12:20pm  | 7                |
| OZ626                         | 2:50am | 6:40am  | 2, 3, 5, 6, 7    | OZ6233                        | 7:30am  | 12:50pm  | 2, 4, 6          |
| OZ626                         | 3:35am | 7:20am  | 4                | OZ623                         | 8:10am  | 1:40pm   | 1, 3             |
| 7C3403                        | 4:35am | 8:35am  | Daily            | 7C3402                        | 10:10am | 3:30pm   | Daily            |
| OZ6243                        | 3:20pm | 7:10pm  | 2, 4, 6          | TW309                         | 11:10am | 4:25pm   | Daily            |
| OZ624                         | 3:50pm | 7:40pm  | 1, 3, 5, 7       | OZ625                         | 7:30pm  | 1:00am+1 | 7                |
| 7C3401                        | 4:30pm | 8:25pm  | Daily            | TW307                         | 7:45pm  | 1:05am+1 | Daily            |
| TW310                         | 5:25pm | 10:15pm | Daily            | OZ625                         | 8:20pm  | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 4, 5, 6    |
|                               |        |         |                  | OZ625                         | 9:05pm  | 2:25am+1 | 3                |
|                               |        |         |                  | 7C3404                        | 10:10pm | 3:40am+1 | Daily            |
| <b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b>  |        |         |                  | <b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b>  |         |          |                  |
| 3U8648                        | 6:10am | 8:50am  | 4, 7             | 3U8647                        | 10:30pm | 4:30am+1 | 3, 6             |
| <b>SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHH)</b>  |        |         |                  | <b>HANGZHOU (GHH)-SAIPAN</b>  |         |          |                  |
| JD396                         | 7:30am | 12:05pm | 1                | JD395                         | 8:05am  | 3:30pm   | 4                |
| JD396                         | 4:50pm | 7:55pm  | 4                | JD395                         | 8:50pm  | 5:00am+1 | 7                |
| <b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b> |        |         |                  | <b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b> |         |          |                  |
| 3U8646                        | 4:30am | 7:50am  | 2, 6             | 3U864                         | 8:10pm  | 3:10am+1 | 1, 5             |
| <b>SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)</b>   |        |         |                  | <b>BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN</b>   |         |          |                  |
| MU764                         | 1      |         |                  |                               |         |          |                  |

## IT&E gives SFA \$3K for wahoo fishing tournament

By JUSTINE NAUTA  
justine\_nauta@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

IT&E recently gave the Saipan's Fisherman Association \$3,000 that will be used for the Marianas Fishing Tournament, specifically to fund the tournament's wahoo fishing competition, which is being organized by students under the SFA's Youth Fishing Club.

IT&E representatives presented SFA with the check last Jan. 14 at the IT&E sales office in Chalan Lau Lau.

"We're very grateful for the donation and the support that we've been getting from our sponsors and the community," said Paul Guerrero, who is currently employed at IT&E and is a member of SFA.

This makes IT&E one of the two sponsors of the fishing tournament; the other one is Mobil Oil Marianas Inc.

The first wahoo fishing competition in the Marianas Fishing Tournament will be organized by students under the SFA's "Tasi to Table" program, which are students from Saipan Southern High School, Marianas High School, Kagman High School, and Da'ok Academy.

According to spokesperson Wayne Pangelinan, there will be a total of \$5,000 in cash prizes for the first to third place and the top 3 wahoo total weight (not in placement of first to third).

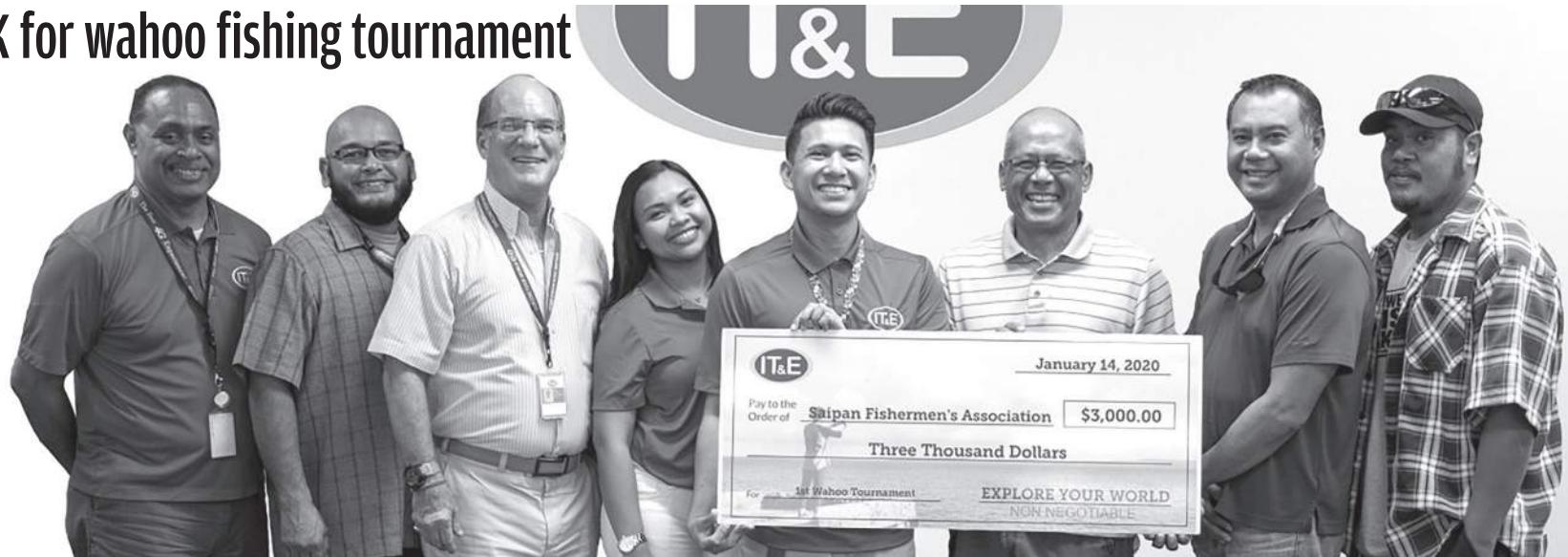
The registration fees are \$100 per boat (captain and one angler—a person who fishes with a rod and line) and \$25 for additional anglers.

### Public warned of dangerous rip currents

The public is being warned that there is currently a high risk of rip currents through Saturday night along east-facing reefs of the Marianas.

Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers out to sea.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service -Tiyan Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Cen-



IT&E representatives present a \$3,000 check to the Saipan Fishermen's Association at the IT&E Sales Office in Chalan Lau Lau last Jan. 14.

JUSTINE NAUTA



## DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan  
TEL. NO. 664-8300 • FAX NO. 664-8315  
www.dcrm.gov.mp



## NOTICE OF APPLICATION As of January 17, 2020

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

| APPLICANT  | DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED      | APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION                               | LOCATION                                       | TYPE               | STATUS                  |
|--|--------------------------------|---|--|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. JB International Holding, Limited dba Uncle J Dive          | 12/06/2019<br>SLR-2020-X-013   | SCUBA Diving Tour Operation & Instruction                     | Obyan, Lau Lau, & Grotto, Saipan               | Lagoon & Reef      | Approved*<br>12/30/2019 |
| 2. JKL Corporation dba Scuba Company Saipan                    | 12/12/2019<br>STLR-2020-X-014  | SCUBA Diving Tour Operation & Instruction                     | All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan & Tinian   | Lagoon & Reef      | Approved*<br>12/31/2019 |
| 3. Department of Public Works                                  | 12/13/2019<br>SS-2020-X-016    | Island Wide Emergency Repair, Miscellaneous Items, EY-19(003) | Island Wide, Saipan                            | Shoreline          | Approved*<br>12/31/2019 |
| 4. Department of Public Works                                  | 12/16/2019<br>SW-2020-X-017    | Route 35 (Chalan Tun Herman Pan) Road Improvement             | Tun Herman Pan Road Saipan                     | Wetland            | Approved*<br>12/31/2019 |
| 5. Commonwealth Utilities Corporation                          | 12/26/2019<br>SW-2020-X-019    | Kagman Waterline and Booster Station Rehabilitation           | Kagman, Saipan                                 | Wetland            | Approved*<br>01/09/2020 |
| 6. Mariana Islands Nature Alliance                             | 12/26/2019<br>STSLR-2020-X-020 | Typhoon Debris Removal  | Tinian Harbor & Southern Part of Saipan Lagoon | Shoreline          | Approved*<br>01/09/2020 |
| 7. Triple J Saipan, Inc.                                       | 12/26/2019<br>SSm-2020-X-021   | 3rd Annual Triple J 5K Family Fun Run/Walk                    | Garapan, Saipan                                | Shoreline          | Approved*<br>12/31/2020 |
| 8. Tinian Shipping Services, LLC                               | 01/08/2020<br>SPLm-2020-X-022  | Improvement of Existing Concrete Flooring                     | Lower Base, Saipan                             | Ports & Industrial | Approved*<br>01/10/2020 |
| 9. Globe Corporation   | 01/09/2020<br>SLR-2020-X-023   | Free Diving   | Grotto, Saipan                                 | Lagoon & Reef      | Approved*<br>01/10/2020 |
| 10. Rep. Joseph Arriola Flores (21st House of Representatives) | 01/10/2020<br>SSm-2020-X-024   | Two Barbeque Pits   | San Antonio, Saipan                            | Shoreline          | Under Review*           |
| 11. Aqua Del Rey Saipan, Inc.                                  | 01/14/2020<br>SLR-2020-X-027   | SCUBA Diving Tour Operation & Instruction                     | Grotto, Saipan                                 | Lagoon & Reef      | Under Review*           |
| 12. Saipan Crewboats, Inc.                                     | 01/14/2020<br>SPL-2020-X-028   | Drydock   | Lower Base, Saipan                             | Ports & Industrial | Approved*<br>01/15/2020 |
| 13. Pacific International Property Management, LLC             | 01/16/2020<br>SS-2020-X-029    | Archaeological Survey and Soil Investigation                  | San Roque, Saipan                              | Shoreline          | Under Review*           |
| 14. Department of Lands and Natural Resources                  | 12/03/2019<br>RSm-2019-X-1203  | Solar Street Light Installation                               | Rota   | Shoreline          | Approved*<br>01/15/2020 |

NMIC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (\*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

\* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting.

\*\* Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

\*\*\* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation  
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building  
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220  
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors' Personnel Committee hereby informs the general public that the Personnel Committee will meet on **Wednesday, January 22, at 10:00 a.m.** at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building.

The Agenda is as follows:

- I. Preliminary Matters
  - A. Roll Call
  - B. Adoption of Agenda

- II. Public Comments

- III. Executive Session\*

Administrative Review

- 10:00 A.M. - Appeal of Corrective Action No. 20-0001CA
- 1:00 P.M. - Appeal of Grievance Action No. 20-0001G
- 2:00 P.M. - Appeal of Corrective Action No. 20-0002CA
- 3:00 P.M. - Appeal of Grievance Action No. 20-0002G

- IV. Adjournment

\* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting.

\*\* Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

\*\*\* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

## How may we assist you? Hyatt wants to know how it can help

At Hyatt, we believe that fulfilling our purpose first starts with caring for others so they can be their best—at work and beyond. Hyatt Regency Saipan's colleagues live and work in local communities that provide convenient access to healthier food, stable jobs and support in times of disasters are essential to building strong local economies. Over the years, Hyatt Regency Saipan has been deliberate

about sustaining our strengths, associates and other resources to build resiliency in our communities. This is the core of our Charity Golf Classic, and there is no better place to demonstrate this comradery than

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### CWA general membership meeting Jan, 23

The CNMI Women's Association will have its general membership meeting on Jan. 23, at 6pm, at the CNMI Women's Center on Capital Hill. The CNMI Women's

Center is located across the Medicaid Office. All members are urged to attend. (AP)

#### 2020 Red Cross Walkathon on April 25

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's 2020 Walkathon will take place on April 25, a Saturday. The event will include a 10K walk and lots

of fun and games for the entire family. Activities will include a community resource fair, face painting, bounce houses and lots more. For information on the walkathon and how you can support, volunteer or participate, call the NMI Chapter at 234-3459 or e-mail at nmichapter@red-cross.org. (PR)

on our own island community.

Our Charity Golf Classic exemplifies this care factor for our people by giving back and asking our community, "How may we assist you?"

Last year, the 23rd Annual Charity Golf Classic raised over \$65,000 which supported five beneficiaries. We continue to grow every year through the support of local businesses and community members.

This year, we extend the opportunity to our island organizations. The Charity Golf Classic involves several community partners to raise awareness for the causes that are selected, in a fun way. Our team members give generously their time, money, and skills

to actively support their passion for community engagement and assisting non-profit organizations achieve their goals and purpose.

Non-profit organizations in need of assistance may write a letter stating how it helps (or can help) make the local community a place where employees want to work, guests want to visit, our neighbors want to live and investors want to invest.

The letter must also state how partnership with Hyatt Regency Saipan can help in advancing its mission, vision and goals. The organization must also be active within one of Hyatt Thrive's four pillars: environmental sustainability, economic development and

investment, education and personal advancement and health and wellness.

Submit your non-profit organization's information pack and address it to the following contact details:

Josephine Mesta  
Director of Human Resources  
Hyatt Regency Saipan  
PO Box 5087 CHRB Saipan  
MP 96950

The selection of the non-profit organization will be decided based on the votes cast by the leadership committee members of the hotel. The information pack must be submitted on or before 5pm, Friday, Feb. 28. For more information visit [thrive.hyatt.com](http://thrive.hyatt.com). (PR)



#### COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

San Jose Village • P.O. Box 502149 • Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel. Nos: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245 • Fax No.: (670) 235-7147  
Website: [www.developcnmi.com](http://www.developcnmi.com)



## PUBLIC NOTICE

January 17, 2020

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2020 AT 5:30 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CDA BUILDING, SAN JOSE VILLAGE, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

### AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  - A. Roll Call
  - B. Adoption of Agenda
  - C. Adoption of Minutes
    - 1. September 7, 2019
    - 2. November 14, 2019
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. REPORTS
  - A. Executive Director's Report
    - 1. Administrative/Personnel Matters
    - 2. Loan Matters
      - a. Judgment Debts
      - 3. Qualifying Certificate (QC) Program Matters/Economic Development Activities
  - B. Comptroller's Report
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. Rent-To-Own Home Program
- V. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Article XII (Private Land Only)
  - B. Update Loan Department Page on the CDA Website
  - C. Doing Business in the CNMI
- VI. OTHER MATTERS
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ IGNACIO L. PEREZ  
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

#### COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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Website: [www.developcnmi.com](http://www.developcnmi.com)



## PUBLIC NOTICE

January 17, 2020

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DIVISION (DCD) OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE DCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2020 AT 5:30 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CDA BUILDING, SAN JOSE VILLAGE, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

### AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  - A. Roll Call
  - B. Election of Officers
  - C. Adoption of Agenda
  - D. Adoption of Minutes
    - 1. November 14, 2019
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. REPORTS
  - A. Executive Director's /Loan Manager's Report
  - B. DCD Funds' Status Report
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
- V. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. New Loan Applications
  - B. Proposed Amendments to the DCD Rules & Regulations (Preliminary)
  - C. Update on Interest Calculator
  - D. Simplified Business Plan—for Loans under \$25,000
- VI. OTHER MATTERS
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ FRANK LEE SN. BORJA  
Chairman, DCD Board of Directors



#### TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

"Car Rental Concessions"

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-002-20

### CPA Concession No. CRT-2020-01 CPA Concession No. CRT-2020-02

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of two (2) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Tinian International Airport ("Car Rental Concessions"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Tinian International Airport for a period of two years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-002-20 is December 20, 2019, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) by or before 4:30 p.m. on January 31, 2020, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$200.00 (cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director



#### PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP NO.: DPW20-RFP-003

SUBMISSION DATE: February 19, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

### "Engineering and Design Related Services for Route 310 (Tapochao Road) Improvements, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A Mandatory PRE-PROPOSAL SITE VISIT WILL BE HELD ON **January 30, 2020 AT 9:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME** AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE ROOM.

QUESTIONS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS February 7, 2020**. THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED WITHIN THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS AND WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA  
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS



#### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com) • Website: [www.cpa.gov.mp](http://www.cpa.gov.mp)

#### FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAI PAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AIRPORT FIRE STATION ROLL UP DOOR REPLACEMENT PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-20

##### 1st AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting for sealed proposals for procurement, delivery and installation of eight (8) stainless-steel brand-new roll up doors for the bays located at the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The work shall include all design, materials, labor and equipment necessary to achieve the finished products, along with testing and commissioning in compliance with the items in the scope of work.

The Scope of Work (SOW) may be picked up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceed what is required by the SOW, may be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package.

A site visit may be requested by each proposer and will be coordinated with the CPA's Airport Fire Chief, Frederick Pangelinan at telephone number 670-288-0091.

Questions shall be submitted in writing to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office or via email at [wprater@cpa.gov.mp](mailto:wprater@cpa.gov.mp) or [cpa.engr@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.engr@pticom.com) by no later than **5:00 p.m., Friday, January 17, 2020**. All responses to questions or requests for information will be provided to all proposers who have picked up a proposal package.

Proposers shall submit one original and four (4) copies of the proposals, sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Procurement, Delivery and Installation of Eight Roll Up Doors for Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, CPA-SA-001-20". Proposals must be submitted no later than **5:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2020**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

PROPOSERS SHALL PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO ALL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS DETAILED IN THE SCOPE OF WORK, AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AS DETAILED ABOVE.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date: January 14, 2020

#### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com) • Website: [www.cpa.gov.mp](http://www.cpa.gov.mp)

#### REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES PORT OF SAIPAN BERTH 103 REPAIRS PROJECT NO. CPA-SS-001-17

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Construction Management Services for Berth 103 Repairs at the Port of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined in the RFQ package.

Questions regarding this RFQ shall be addressed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager and delivered to the CPA Executive Director's office, faxed to (670) 234-5962, or emailed to [cpa.engr@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.engr@pticom.com) and [wprater@cpa.gov.mp](mailto:wprater@cpa.gov.mp) by no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020 (CST)**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications. Qualification statements shall be submitted by no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020 (CST)**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:  
Mr. Christopher S. Tenorio  
Executive Director  
Commonwealth Ports Authority  
P.O. Box 501055  
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date: January 2, 2020

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON  
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

# Pet dog drenched in gasoline, beaten

**GUAM**—Drenched in gasoline and beaten with rocks.

That's the condition a family pet dog named Zeus was found on Tuesday night. Guam Animals In Need is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest or indictment of the person(s) responsible for the vicious attack.

On Tuesday, Jan. 14, sometime before 9:30pm, a person or persons trespassed onto the private property of Rossane Ikertang on Swamp Road in Dededo. They drenched her dog, Zeus, with gasoline, and beat him so severely that blood was found splattered on the outside walls of the home. Bloody rocks, including a large piece of cinder block, were found at the scene. When Zeus was found, the 5-year-old half pit-bull and half boonie mix was terrified and in severe pain.

Ikertang called the Dededo precinct Tuesday night and asked to file a police report, but found they were dismissive of her concerns. "They didn't ask for details, the condition of Zeus, or anything," she said. She was told that due to other priorities, an officer would respond if available. She was given no further instructions or case number. Ikertang stayed up until 2:30am, but no officer arrived or called.

To date, nobody from GPD has visited or contacted her. "I just want to file a police report, to help stop this monster," said Ikertang.

Ikertang then reached out to GAIN and local Facebook animal welfare groups, including Guahan Paws for Pets who posted about the attack on social media. Wednesday morning, with the help of local animal welfare advocate Tina-marie Guzman, she took Zeus

## » GAIN questions GPD response, offers \$1,000 reward

to Animal Medical Clinic.

Zeus reeked of gasoline, and had to be quickly washed. The subsequent medical evaluation found severe injuries. Numerous teeth were damaged, shifted, or knocked out, and Zeus' left eye was swollen nearly shut. Zeus is currently staying overnight at the veterinary clinic, and recovery is touch and go. Upcoming X-rays should reveal the extent of the damage, and if Zeus is able to recover, surgery will likely be needed.

Zeus' medical care may be very costly. Donations to help Zeus and his family can be made at Animal Medi-

cal Clinic.

"I'm scared for my daughter, myself, and of course Zeus. Somebody tried to set my pet on fire and beat him to death. How can we feel safe?" said Ikertang. "My daughter cried herself to sleep. She's traumatized after seeing her best friend hurt like this."

"We have no idea why GPD didn't respond," said GAIN board president, Cyrus Luhr. "Research shows that people who attack animals also attack humans. And we have a monster on the loose who tried to set a pet dog on fire. Do we have to wait until there's a murder?"

"We need to find the attacker before others are hurt," said Luhr. "We're asking GPD to explain what happened, and to explain how they plan to protect Ms. Ikerlang, her daughter, and Zeus," he added.

"If you have information about this attack, please come forward. You can collect the \$1,000 reward and still remain anonymous," said Luhr. The \$1,000 reward for information leading to an arrest is made possible by private donors.

Anyone with information about these violent crimes is urged to contact GPD, GAIN at 653-4246, or Guam Crime Stoppers at 477-HELP (4357) or [guam.crimestoppersweb.com](http://guam.crimestoppersweb.com). (PR)



**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**  
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## INVITATION FOR BID PROJECT NO. IFB-004-20 SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 09, 2018 TIME: 2:00 P.M. PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) UNIT POLICE PATROL BOAT WITH TRAILER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of one (1) unit Police Patrol Boat with Trailer, destination Saipan. Bidders shall take into consideration all charges associated with this procurement before finalizing their bid price.

The Bid Package is available for pick-up beginning January 10, 2020, at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport, upon a non-refundable payment of \$150.00 in cash or cashier's check.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Departure Building on January 29, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., to discuss and ask questions regarding this procurement process. All interested bidders are asked to attend.

Questions regarding this procurement should be submitted through the CPA Executive Director via email at [cpa.receptionist@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.receptionist@pticom.com) with copy to [itdelacruz@cpa.gov.mp](mailto:itdelacruz@cpa.gov.mp) prior to February 3rd, 2020.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Bid for Procurement and Delivery of one (1) unit Police Patrol Boat with Trailer/IFB-004-20". One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Local Time, February 7, 2020, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Bids will be opened at 3:00 p.m. and publicly announced. Bidders are welcome to attend the bid opening. Bids submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any bids received after the bid submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned to the bidder unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation for Bids; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the bid would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA's best interest.

All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This Invitation for Bid shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

**FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Job Vacancy Announcement



JVA No. 20-029

### Utility Coordinator (Maintenance Supervisor)

Opening Date: January 13, 2020  
Closing Date: February 3, 2020

#### WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

**Duties:** Under the direct supervision of the Division Manager or his/her designee. Supervises field staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; ensuring that employees follow policies and procedures; maintaining a healthy and safe working environment; and, assisting with making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. As assigned, may assist with supervising daily activities and maintenance of assigned field operations; oversees the scheduling, production, maintenance and/or provision of utility services to include water and wastewater. As assigned, oversees utility service processes, procedures and techniques; monitors operations and material handling and addresses issues or potential hazards; ensures safety procedure compliance and enforces policies and procedures. Receives and responds to customer issues, complaints and/or emergency situations; troubleshoots and identifies issues, initiates responses, and implements resolutions. Prepares a variety of utility service operational status and budget reports; gathers and organizes data; prepares and provides informational and compliance reporting. Monitors and tracks assigned budget; reviews and inspects equipment and supply needs; orders and maintains adequate supply of required parts and materials. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

**LOCATION:** Engineering Division, **SAIPAN**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

**SALARY:** \$40,000.00 per annum to \$54,000.00 per annum, Exempt (Salary Commensurate with qualification and experience)

**CONTRACT:** Two (2) Year Contract, subject to renewal

**POSITION(S):** One (1)

**Minimum Requirements:** High School Diploma or GED or ABE, and college degree preferred with one year of directly related experience in a water and wastewater utility, CNMI drivers license or one from another U.S. jurisdiction. **Knowledge of:** Principles and procedures of water/wastewater systems; Inspection and troubleshooting principles; Preventative maintenance principles; Applicable codes, laws, rules and regulations; Inventory control principles; Mathematics, and an understanding of engineering techniques and design principles. **Skills in:** Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Preparing daily schedules; Assisting in preparing budgets; Preparing cost and materials estimates; Performing preventative maintenance; Implementing and following project management principles and practices; Performing journey level maintenance and installations; Performing site inspections and recognizing problem areas; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convert information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test that will be applied equally to U.S. workers and CW-1 workers.

You may submit your CUC Employment Application and resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: [employment.applications@cucgov.org](mailto:employment.applications@cucgov.org)

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer  
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A.  
Tel. No. (670) 664-4282 Fax (670) 235-5131



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Job Vacancy Announcement



JVA No. 20-027

### Safety Officer

Opening Date: January 14, 2020  
Closing Date: January 21, 2020

**Duties:** Under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee. The Safety Officer complies with all occupational health and safety guidelines and ensures that Site Safety and Health Plan is prepared and implemented. Inspect work sites and review working conditions. Responsible for monitoring and assessing hazardous and unsafe situations and developing measures to assure personnel safety. Test workplaces for environmental hazards, such as exposure to radiation, chemical or biological hazards, or excessive noise. Verify availability or monitor use of safety equipment, such as hearing protection or respirators. Investigate accidents to identify causes or to determine how such accidents might be prevented in the future. Inspect or evaluate workplace environments, equipment, or practices to ensure compliance with safety standards and government regulations. Update procedures and policies for new regulations or local ordinances. Supply, operate, or maintain personal protective equipment, ensure all personnel follow all personal safety precautions. Maintain all required environmental records and documentation. Prepares incident and accident reports to document issues/incidents and appropriate corrective actions. Monitors equipment and supplies inventory; requests replacement stock to replenish inventory levels; ensures stock supply and preparedness for responding to oil spills or related incidents. Performs safety related duties after hours, on weekends, and on holidays as needed. Stand-by on-call designation on alternating basis. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

**LOCATION(S):** Administration/Safety Office, **SAIPAN**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

**SALARY:** \$40,084.00 to \$54,113.00 Per annum, Exempt

**CONTRACT:** Two (2) years, subject to renewal

**POSITION(S):** One (1)

**Minimum Requirements:** Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, Business or directly related field and 2 years of directly related experience; or High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and 6 years of directly related experience. **Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Investigative techniques; Mitigation procedures; Safe work practices and procedures; Customer service principles; Modern office technology. **Skills in:** Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing inspections to monitor safety and environmental compliance; Responding to emergency incidents to ensure corrective actions and proper procedures are followed; Monitoring equipment and supply inventory; Conducting and assisting with informational workshops and orientations; Reviewing project specifications and monitoring project work; Providing customer service; Preparing reports and related activity documentation; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class. Position may require the following specialized licenses and certifications: Emergency Responder Certification, Hazmat and OSHA Certifications. Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: [employment.applications@cucgov.org](mailto:employment.applications@cucgov.org)

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# Business



From left, server Apornphan Rodjaruu, server Jamnoen Jampangoen, chef Khankaew "Lyn" Boathiang, co-owner Natalia Guan, and chefs "Ning" Christianson and Sayan "Nun" Munmai. Not in photo is co-owner Phannee U. Regen.

BEA CABRERA

## Tom Yum Restaurant expands MENU

For more information, call (670) 488-2963 or look them up on Facebook and type Tom Yum Restaurant.

By BEA CABRERA  
beacabrera@saipan@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

**I**n five months after opening, Tom Yum Restaurant located on Middle Road has expanded its menu to cater to a wider audience of foodies. Aside from Thai food, they now feature a large selection of dishes that captures true American, Mexican, and Italian tastes.

According to owner Natalia Guan, the new menu was made possible because of the three chefs that recently came on board. "We are excited as three chefs joined us that allowed us to have a variety of dishes to offer to our new and loyal customers. These chefs have many years of experience cooking different kinds of dishes that prompted us to shift from just Thai food to other international dishes," she said.

"Since Saipan is so diverse, people from different backgrounds can come to Tom Yum and expect to see their favorite dishes like hamburgers, grilled salmon, steaks, pasta, burritos, quesadilla, loco moco, sandwiches, and of course, authentic Thai dishes. We serve breakfast, lunch and dinner and all dishes are available all throughout the day," she added.

The three chefs that recently joined Tom Yum are Khankaew "Lyn" Boathiang, Ehoticha "Ning" Christianson, and Sayan "Nun" Munmai—all of Thai descent and have been on island for a long time, cooking their way to people's hearts.

"I started working on Saipan during the garment factory days



Tom Yum's spicy burger with fries and garnish will surely fill your burger cravings.

BEA CABRERA

and when that industry was over, I shifted to another passion which is cooking. My expertise on many dishes has been honed over the years working in different restaurants and a couple of them are popular ones," Boathiang said.

Christianson said that she is looking forward to cooking for Tom Yum Restaurant with longtime friends Boathiang and Munmai. "It is always fun working with these women. I know them inside and outside work. We have a good system when we are in the kitchen and we pour our hearts into every dish," she said.

Munmai, whose expertise is making bread and pastry, said that their customers can expect fresh bread all the time and this was echoed by Guan. "Our customers can expect fresh bread and pancakes for breakfast everyday here at Tom Yum. It may take time because everything is hand-made and not from the grocery," she said.

"Our *pha tong go* or deep fried dough stick is available upon request. It is hot, fresh, and sprinkled with sugar for that special taste which is perfect with tea or coffee. Aside from bread and pancakes, our hash browns are also hand-made because people deserve the best taste," she added.

Tom Yum Restaurant opened its doors in August last year and has always been thinking of how to better serve their customers. "We always think how to inject something new and exciting. With the new year and our new menu, we feel that the timing is right. Families and friends can now gather and eat here anytime of the day whether for breakfast, lunch, and dinner and we hope that whatever dish they crave for, we have it," Guan said.

Tom Yum Restaurant is located on the ground floor of Paradise Hotel on Middle Road. They are open Monday to Sunday from 7am to 10pm and happy hour starts from 5pm to 10pm.



Tom Yum's island-style loco moco—white rice topped with hamburger patty, egg, and delicious brown gravy is unforgettable.

BEA CABRERA

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Senate expected to give Trump back-to-back trade victories

WASHINGTON (AP)—One day after signing a new trade deal with China, President Donald Trump is expected to get more good news on his trade agenda as the Senate considers a new North American pact. The House has already overwhelmingly approved the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement. The Senate is expected to do the same on Thursday and send the measure to Trump's desk for his signature before it turns to articles of impeachment. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell described the

pact as a "major win for the Trump administration, a major win for those of us who are already ready to move past this season of toxic political noise." Trump blamed the current trade pact with Canada and Mexico, the North American Free Trade Agreement, for sending millions of manufacturing jobs to low-wage plants south of the U.S. border. His administration secured changes that aim to have more cars produced where workers earn an average of at least \$16 an hour. It also secured changes that require Mexico to change its laws to make it easier for workers to form independent unions, which should im-

prove worker conditions and wages and reduce the incentive for U.S. companies to relocate their plants. While the administration completed its negotiations with Canada and Mexico more than a year ago, Democrats in the House insisted on changes to the pact that they say make it more likely Mexico will follow through on its commitments. As part of those negotiations, the administration agreed to drop a provision that offered expensive biologic drugs—made from living cells—10 years of protection from cheaper knockoff competition.

#### Ghosn's Japan lawyer quits

#### after client's flight to Lebanon

TOKYO (AP)—One of the Japanese lawyers for former Nissan Chairman Carlos Ghosn has stepped down from that job after Ghosn fled the country. Junichiro Hironaka had been representing Ghosn in his defense against various financial misconduct allegations. His move, announced Thursday, was widely expected after Ghosn fled to Lebanon late last month. Hironaka said in a statement that the entire team working on the case at his office will quit but did not outline reasons. He has said before he has felt some empathy for Ghosn's reasons for escape, while stressing he had hoped to

win vindication in court. Hironaka is respected for winning innocent verdicts in high-profile cases in this nation where the conviction rate is higher than 99%. Among the cases he has handled is that of Atsuko Muraki, a welfare ministry official accused of falsely approving a group to qualify for mail discounts. She was acquitted in 2010. In a news conference last week in Beirut, Ghosn insisted again that he was innocent of the charges of underreporting his future compensation and of breach of trust in diverting Nissan Motor Co. money for his personal gain. He said he fled because he felt he could not expect a fair trial in Japan.

# Nation

## House turns over Trump impeachment articles to Senate

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—In a dramatic procession across the U.S. Capitol, House Democrats carried the formal articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump to the Senate late Wednesday, setting the stage for only the third trial to remove a president in American history.

Trump complained anew it was all a “hoax,” even as fresh details emerged about his efforts in Ukraine.

The ceremonial pomp and protocol by the lawmakers prosecuting the case against Trump moved the impeachment out of Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s Democratic-run

House to the Republican-majority Senate, where the president’s team is mounting a defense aiming for swift acquittal.

“Today we will make history,” Pelosi said as she signed the documents, using multiple pens to hand out and mark the moment. “This president will be held accountable.”

Moments later the prosecutors walked solemnly through the stately hall, filing into the Senate back row as the Clerk of the House announced the arrival: “The House has passed House Resolution 798, a resolution appointing and authorizing managers of the impeachment trial of Don-



ald John Trump, President of United States.”

The Senate will transform itself into an impeachment court at noon Thursday. The Constitution calls for Chief Justice John Roberts to preside at the trial, administering the oath to senators who will serve as jurors and swear to deliver “impartial justice.”

The trial will play out before a deeply divided nation at the start of this election year

as Trump seeks a second term and voters review his presidency. Three senators are running for the Democratic nomination.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell pledged to have the Senate “rise above the petty factionalism” and “factional fervor and serve the long-term, best interests of our nation.” He called it “a difficult time for our country.”

### House impeachment prosecutors

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has chosen seven lawmakers to prosecute the House’s case that President Donald Trump abused his office and obstructed Congress’ probe into what happened.

The managers bring institutional and subject matter expertise to the task, as well as geographic diversity.

A look at Pelosi’s team of managers:

#### INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ADAM SCHIFF

The California Democrat, 59, led the impeachment investigation into Trump’s pressure on Ukraine to announce an investigation into the family of Joe Biden, even as the president held up military aid to the U.S. ally. Schiff is a former federal prosecutor and is especially close to Pelosi.

#### JUDICIARY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JERROLD NADLER

The New York Democrat, 72, wrote the impeachment articles against Trump based on Schiff’s investigation report. He also led hearings into former special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into Russia’s 2016 meddling. Pelosi noted that Nadler served as the top Democrat on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties for more than a dozen years.

#### REP. ZOE LOFGREN

The California Democrat, 72, is a veteran of three presidential impeachment inquiries. She was on the

Clerk of the House Cheryl Johnson, left, and House Sergeant at Arms Paul Irving pass through Statuary Hall at the Capitol to deliver the articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump to the Senate, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2020. Following are impeachment managers, House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., left, and House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., and other managers Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., Rep. Sylvia Garcia, D-Texas, Rep. Val Demings, D-Fla., Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., and Rep. Jason Crow, D-Colo.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**  
**RFP20-CHCC/CGC-DCMP-001**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 27, 2020 TIME: 10:00 AM**

**“OFFICE SPACE LEASE”**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **RFP’s** TAB ON THE BOTTOM NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

**/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA**  
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**/S/ CORAZON P. ADA**  
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Michael & Evelyn R. Camacho  
P.O. Box 503550 Saipan MP 969950  
285-3981 (Brandy Camacho, Daughter)  
pro se

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The )  
Matter Of The )  
Petition To )  
Appoint General ) FCD GU  
Guardianship For: ) CIVIL ACTION  
Terence C. Aguto ) NO. 19-0538  
Minor Child ) NOTICE OF HEARING  
By: ) Michael &  
Evelyn R. Camacho ) Petitioners )

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on March 9, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom MBP, before Honorable Judge Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 30th day of December, 2019.

Patrick V. Diaz  
Clerk of Court  
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Joey P. San Nicolas  
Attorney-at-Law  
San Nicolas Law Office, LLC  
2nd Floor, Island Commercial Center, Rm. 203  
Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai  
P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602 Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-7659 | Fax: (670) 234-9218  
Email: jpsn@sannicolaslaw.net

Attorney for Petitioner Maria Carmen C. Maratita

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF )  
THE ESTATE OF: ) Civil Action  
LUIS SABLÁN ) No.: 20-0011-CV  
CAMACHO, ) NOTICE TO HEIRS  
AND CREDITORS  
Decedent.)

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF:

LUIS SABLÁN CAMACHO, DECEASED.  
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Petition by Maria Carmen Camacho Maratita for the issuance of letters of administration of this estate will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 6th day of February, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., at the Marianas Business Plaza, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San Nicolas, P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 234-7659 and email jpsn@sannicolaslaw.net.

Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, LUIS SABLÁN CAMACHO or of his estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 15th day of January, 2020.  
/s/ Judge Camacho, Joseph Norita

**Robert Tenorio Torres**  
Attorney at Law  
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)  
P.O. Box 503758  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-7859  
Fax: (670) 234-5749  
Attorney for Plaintiff

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. CLARISSA M. FEJERAN and WATSON SAM, Defendants.**

**Civil Action No. 10-0312**

**NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 15th day of January, 2019, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 27th day of February, 2020 at 11:00 a.m., at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Tract 21988-18, (part of original Tract 21988, AH 623) as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2004/84, the original of which was recorded on November 18, 1983, as Documents No. 83-239 at the Commonwealth Recorder’s Office, Saipan.

#### Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale
- or before a bid for such property is accepted.
- to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- to reject any and all bids.

2. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, fax or by e-mail to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rtltaw@pticom.com.

3. **Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier’s check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer’s rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Marianas Public Land Trust.

4. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this cause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property is being sold “AS IS” and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

**DATED this 11th day of December, 2019.**

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

# Asia

## Despite danger, Filipinos made restive volcano their home



A man walks past damaged trees and deserted homes near Taal volcano as residents evacuated to safer grounds leaving some of their pets behind in Talisay, Batangas province, southern Philippines on Wednesday Jan. 15, 2020.

**TALISAY, Philippines** (AP)—It's the second-most active volcano in the Philippines, a designated permanent danger zone long declared off-limits to human settlements. Yet to more than 5,000 people the Taal volcano is home.

A lush island dotted with dozens of craters in the middle of a shimmering lake, the volcano roared into action Sunday with a mighty eruption that shot rocks, ash and steam miles into the sky just hours after the inhabitants of its four villages fled on a flotilla of boats. A man who defied official warnings about the ongoing eruption to sneak back to the island to check on his pigs says there is complete devastation.

"Almost everything was destroyed," Christian Morales told The Associated Press, adding that he was only able to get his bearings after seeing the cross of a mud-encrusted Catholic church where he used to hear Mass. "If anybody defied orders and stayed behind, he would have been killed without a doubt."

So far no one has been reported killed in the eruption,

but the disaster is spotlighting the longstanding dilemma of how the government can move settlements away from danger in a country commonly hit by volcanoes, earthquakes, landslides, floods and typhoons.

Sometimes, as is the case with Taal, the settlements violate laws that have not been enforced.

"It's an accident waiting to happen," Renato Solidum, head of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, said of the villages on the island.

He said his agency has repeatedly warned against living on the island, which it has declared a permanent danger zone where people are forbidden from setting up homes. In the 1960s, it was declared a government-protected area and later a national park, meaning it should be off-limits to permanent settlers.

That has never been enforced, however, and Taal's destructive explosions have proven deadly in the past, including a 1965 eruption that killed more than 200 people and ravaged the island's villages.

Nevertheless, poverty, a

lack of land and desperation have driven people to the island despite the danger, said Gerry Natanauan, the mayor of Talisay town who has jurisdiction over two of the four island villages.

"It may be difficult to declare the island a no man's land because like in the past, when that was attempted, it was hard to stop people because when they go hungry, they will always find a way," Natanauan told the AP.

Another driving factor keeping people on Taal is tourism. The picturesque island and surrounding region, which sit in Batangas province only 65 kilometers (40 miles) south of Manila and are known for their idyllic views, pine trees and cooler climate, lure those seeking a quick escape from the the pollution-choked capital.

Areas overlooking the 62,000-hectare (153,200-acre) lake and volcano island, which has its own crater lake, have turned into boom towns of hotels, restaurants and spas. Visitors can go on tours by boat and horseback, hike trails with sweeping views

and hire guides to take them bird watching.

"It's quiet and clean and there is no trouble and traffic," Natanauan said. "When you're able to climb to the peak, it's really like paradise when you see the entire island with its swarms of birds."

Many of those living on Taal have found work in the industry, and Natanauan estimated tourism brings 16 million pesos (\$314,000) in revenue each year to those on island.

What happens next is unclear. Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana has recommended that the thousands of residents should not be allowed to return to the island for good.

"I strongly believe ... that Taal island will be declared a no man's land," Lorenzana said Tuesday during the televised emergency meeting. "We should not allow people to return there because if there are more violent explosions, people will perish on that island."

Solidum said perhaps a compromise could be reached in which villagers are allowed

to travel to the island during the day to work as tourist guides and tend to farms and then return to their new mainland homes before nightfall.

Natanauan said that would be hard to enforce because the islanders would be wary of leaving their farms unguarded and would eventually stay for good on the island again.

Morales, the pig farmer, said it would probably take

years for those on the island to rebuild their lives, but they should be allowed to do so. He said he was less concerned about himself as he lives on the mainland and also earns money taking visitors on boat tours.

He said there were many others who lost their homes, farms and boats.

"I really pity them," he said. "They have nowhere to go."

### Volcano's quakes, cracks send more people fleeing

**LEMERY, Philippines**

(AP)—A Philippine volcano belched smaller plumes of ash Thursday but shuddered continuously with earthquakes and cracked roads in nearby towns, which were blockaded by police due to fears of a bigger eruption.

Taal volcano's crater lake and a nearby river have dried up in some of the signs of its continuing volcanic restiveness. That has prompted army troops and police to block villagers from sneaking back by boats to the volcanic island and nearby towns to retrieve belongings, poultry and cattle.

There have been no reports of deaths or serious injuries from the sudden eruption, which began Sunday, but many houses and farms have been damaged by volcanic ash. The volcano in Batangas province lies more than 65 kilometers (40 miles) south of the capital, Manila.

Amid warnings of an imminent and more dangerous eruption, police cordoned off at least four towns along or near the coast of a lake surrounding volcano island, sparking arguments with villagers.

"We've lost everything, our house got damaged, but I need to retrieve my pots and cooking wares and other things. They should not be very, very strict," Erlinda Landicho, a 59-year-old mother, told The Associated Press.

Landicho, who fled with her son from Lemery municipality as the volcano erupted, was among a throng of villagers stopped by police from reentering the ash-blanketed town. A firetruck blocked a key access road and police set up checkpoints. Beyond the barricade, Lemery looked like a ghost town partly shrouded in swirling ash.

More than 121,000 people fled their homes just in Batangas province, which

has declared a state of calamity to allow faster releases of emergency funds. At least 373 evacuation sites were crammed with displaced villagers and needed more ash masks, portable toilets, bottled water and sleeping mats, according to a provincial disaster-response office.

The government's main-disaster agency reported a little more than 65,000 people were displaced by the eruption in Batangas and Cavite province. The reason for the discrepancy was not immediately clear.

Among those displaced were about 5,000 people who live on the island where the Taal volcano lies. The island had been a popular tourist destination for its stunning view of the volcano's crater lake and lush hills teeming with trees and birds. Some villagers have slipped past checkpoints to retrieve some of the hundreds of cows and horses they left behind, prompting the coast guard and police to intensify a security cordon.

A villager who returned from the island described to AP how the island now resembles an ash-blanketed wasteland.

About four villages exist on the island despite it being declared a state-protected area and a permanent danger zone. Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana has recommended that villagers should not be allowed back.

The 1,020-foot (311-meter) Taal is one of the world's smallest volcanoes but also one of the most restive of 24 active volcanoes across the Philippines. The Southeast Asian archipelago of more than 100 million people is located in the so-called Pacific "Ring of Fire," a vast region in the ocean basin where most of the world's earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur.

## Emphasis on US exports, trade secrets in China trade deal

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The United States and China reached a trade deal Wednesday that eases tensions between the world's two biggest economies, offers massive export opportunities for U.S. farms and factories, and promises to do more to protect

American trade secrets.

Still, the Phase 1 agreement leaves unresolved Washington's fundamental differences with Beijing, which is relying on massive government intervention in the economy to turn China into a technological power.

President Donald Trump is wanting to show progress on an issue that he has made a hallmark of his presidency and hopes to use in his reelection campaign this year. Wednesday's signing ceremony at the White House gave him the chance to do that just hours

before the House voted to send articles of impeachment to the Senate for a trial.

Trump promoted the trade signing as a way of delivering economic justice for American workers he claims have been betrayed by past administrations and their trade policies.

# World

## Putin engineers shake-up that could keep him in power longer

MOSCOW (AP)—President Vladimir Putin engineered a surprise shake-up of Russia's leadership Wednesday, proposing changes to the constitution that could keep him in power well past the end of his term in 2024.

Hours after he made the proposals, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev resigned and Putin named the little-known head of Russia's tax service to replace him.

Putin kept his longtime ally Medvedev in the Kremlin's leadership structure by appointing him to the newly created post of deputy head of the presidential Security Council. But the duties and influence of that position are unclear.

The shakeup sent shock waves through Russia's political elites who were left pondering what Putin's intentions were and speculating about future Cabinet appointments.

### Spain: Death toll from massive chemical plant explosion at 3

TARRAGONA, Spain (AP)—The death toll climbed to three Wednesday from a massive explosion and fire at a petrochemical plant in Spain as one person died in hospital and another body was found in the wreckage, authorities said.

Another seven people were injured in the blast near a northeastern city late Tuesday.

The third victim, a man who had suffered severe burns, died in a Barcelona hospital almost 24 hours after the blast, Spanish private news agency Europa Press reported.

Earlier Wednesday, emergency workers found a body buried under debris inside the plant, where a worker had been missing since the explosion, Miquel Buch, the regional head of Catalonia's interior department, said.

A preliminary investigation indicated the force of the factory explosion near the coastal city of Tarragona killed another person in a nearby neighborhood when a piece of flying metal from the plant struck his apartment, regional authorities said.

Authorities are investigating the cause of what they described as a "chemical accident" on the premises of chemical maker Iqoxe. The seven people injured all worked there, officials said.

Iqoxe CEO José Luis Morlanes said the explosion occurred in a 20-ton tank of ethylene oxide in a part of the plant that had not had

Putin's proposed constitutional reforms, announced in a state of the nation address, indicated he was working to carve out a new governing position for himself after his term ends, although the suggested changes don't immediately specify what path he will take to stay in charge.

The 67-year-old former KGB operative, who has led Russia for more than 20 years, often keeps his intentions secret until the very last moment.

Alexei Navalny, the most prominent Russian opposition leader, tweeted that Putin's speech clearly signaled his desire to continue calling the shots even after his presidential term ends.

"The only goal of Putin and his regime is to stay in charge for life, having the entire country as his personal asset and seizing its riches for himself and his friends," Navalny said.

Independent analyst Masha Lipman told The Associated Press: "The goal is for the system to remain stable and for Putin to retain his grip on power and to remain what he has been throughout these 20 years—the most important politician in the country, the ultimate decision-maker, the uncontested unchallenged leader of no alternative."

The Kremlin said Tax Service chief Mikhail Mishustin was nominated to replace Medvedev, who has been prime minister for nearly eight years. Approval by the Duma on Thursday is virtually certain.

Mishustin has no political experience, indicating he will dutifully carry out the Kremlin's wishes as head of the Cabinet.

He is credited with modernizing Russia's tax system. Analyst Gleb Pavlovsky, a former Putin adviser, told the Interfax news agency that Mishustin is "a splendid bureaucrat, in the best sense of the word."

The move is the third time

in the Putin era that major leadership changes have come suddenly from the top. Putin came to power in the first one, when he became acting president after Boris Yeltsin's surprise resignation on New Year's Eve 1999.

In 2007, as his second term neared its end, he anointed Medvedev to succeed him. Medvedev then said Putin should be prime minister—moves that critics decried as an imposed job-swap without input from the electorate. Medvedev was president in 2008-12, but Putin, as premier, appeared to be effectively in charge.

Under Medvedev, the constitution was amended to lengthen the president's term from four years to six, although it limits the leader to two consecutive terms.

In televised comments Wednesday, Medvedev said he needed to resign in light



Putin

of Putin's proposed changes in government.

Putin suggested amending the constitution again to allow lawmakers to name prime ministers and Cabinet members.

The president currently holds the authority to make those appointments.

"It will increase the role of parliament and parliamentary parties, powers and independence of the prime minister and all Cabinet members," Putin told an audience of top officials and lawmakers.

At the same time, Putin argued that Russia would not remain stable if it were governed under a parliamentary system.

The president should retain the right to dismiss the prime minister and Cabinet ministers, to name top defense and security officials, and to be in charge of the Russian military and law enforcement agencies, he said.

Putin emphasized that the

constitutional changes must be put to a nationwide vote.

Putin has been in power longer than any other Russian or Soviet leader since Josef Stalin, who led from 1924 until his death in 1953. Under the current law, Putin must step down in 2024 after his term ends.

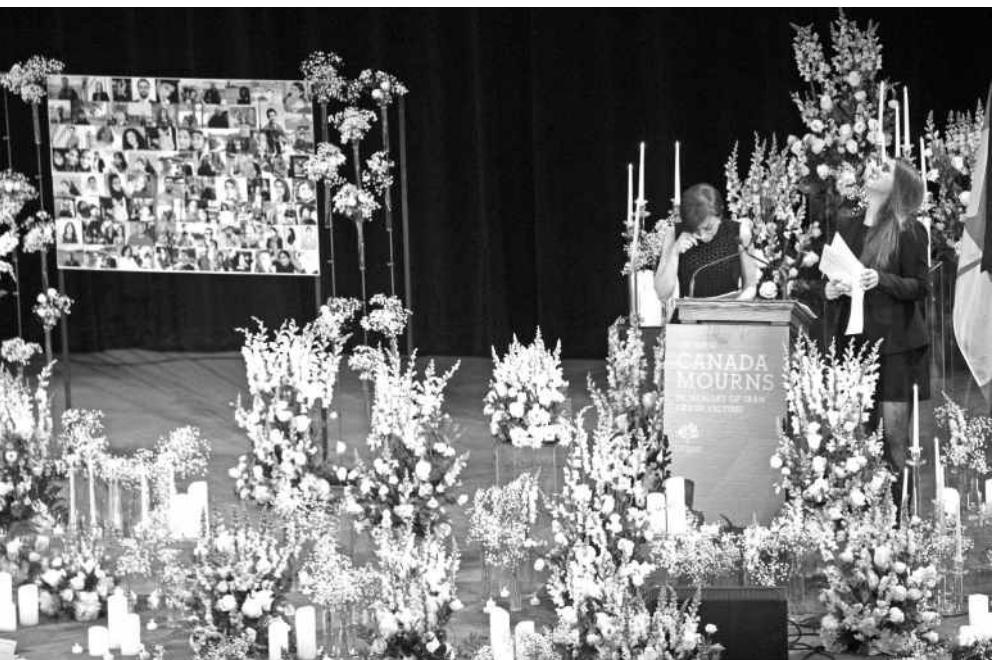
Observers speculated that Putin might try to stay in charge by shifting into the prime minister's seat again after increasing the powers of parliament and the Cabinet and trimming presidential authority.

Political analyst Dmitry Oreshkin said Putin's speech made it clear he was pondering the move to premiership.

"Putin is advancing the idea of keeping his authority as a more powerful and influential prime minister while the presidency will become more decorative," Oreshkin said.

In his address, Putin said the constitution must also specify the authority of the State Council consisting of regional governors and top federal officials.

### Video: 20 seconds of terror between missiles in Iran crash



AP  
Banafsheh Taherian, left, and Kyan Nademi from Tigran stand on stage during a memorial organized by the Iranian-Canadian charity Tigran for the victims of the Iranian air crash, in Toronto, Sunday, Jan. 12, 2020.

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Iran's top diplomat acknowledged Wednesday that Iranians "were lied to" for days after the Islamic Republic accidentally shot down a Ukrainian jetliner. The admission came as new surveillance footage purported to show two surface-to-air missiles 20 seconds apart shred the airplane and kill all 176 people aboard.

The downing of the Ukraine International Airlines flight last week came amid heightened tensions between Iran and the U.S. over its unraveling nuclear deal. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani for the

first time Wednesday threatened Europe by warning its soldiers in the Mideast "could be in danger" over the crisis as Britain, France and Germany launched a measure that could see United Nations sanctions re-imposed on Tehran.

The crash—and subsequent days of Iranian denials that a missile had downed the airplane—has sparked angry protests in a country already on edge as its economy struggles under crushing American sanctions.

Tensions between Washington and Tehran reached a fever pitch two weeks ago with the American drone

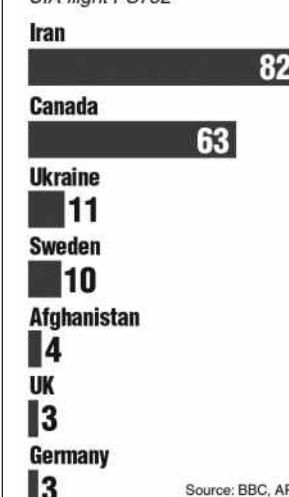
strike in Baghdad that killed the powerful Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani. The general had led Iranian proxy forces abroad, including those blame for deadly roadside bomb attacks on U.S. troops in Iraq.

Iran retaliated with a ballistic missile strike targeting Iraqi military bases housing U.S. forces early last Wednesday, just before Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard shot down the Ukrainian airliner taking off from Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport.

Iran for days afterward insisted a technical fault downed

### The victims

Nationalities of passengers on UIA flight PS752



the 3½-year-old Boeing 737-800. It wasn't until Western governments, including Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, went public with their suspicions the plane had been shot down that Iran admitted it fired on the plane.

Not admitting the plane had been shot down "was for the betterment of our country's security, because if we had said this, our air defense system would have become crippled and our guys would have had doubted everything," said Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the head of the Guard's aerospace program, in television footage aired Wednesday.

Hajizadeh only days earlier apologized on state television and said: "I wish I were dead."

# Off The Wall

## Man wants sword battle with ex-wife, lawyer

**HARLAN, Iowa** (AP)—A Kansas man has asked an Iowa judge to let him engage in a sword fight with his ex-wife and her attorney so that he can “rend their souls” from their bodies.

David Ostrom, 40, of Paola, Kansas, said in a Jan. 3 court filing that his former wife, Bridgette Ostrom, 38, of Har-

lan, Iowa, and her attorney, Matthew Hudson, had “destroyed (him) legally.” The Ostoms have been embroiled in disputes over custody and visitation issues and property tax payments.

The judge had the power to let the parties “resolve our disputes on the field of battle,

legally,” David Ostrom said, adding in his filing that trial by combat “has never been explicitly banned or restricted as a right in these United States.”

He also asked the judge for 12 weeks’ time so he could secure Japanese samurai swords.

His motion filed in Shelby County District Court stemmed

from his frustrations with his ex-wife’s attorney, Ostrom told The Des Moines Register.

“I think I’ve met Mr. Hudson’s absurdity with my own absurdity,” Ostrom said, adding that his former wife could choose Hudson to act as her champion.

Hudson argued in his legal

response that because a duel could end in death, “such ramifications likely outweigh those of property tax and custody issues.” Hudson asked the judge to reject the request for trial by combat.

Judge Craig Dreismeier said in his own filing Monday that he won’t be issuing a de-

cisions anytime soon, citing irregularities with both sides’ motions and responses.

“Until the proper procedural steps to initiate a court proceeding are followed, this court will take no further action concerning any motion, objection or petition filed by either party at this time,” the judge said.

### Shoe test adds strange twist to Detroit wrongful conviction

**DETROIT** (AP)—Blood on the shoe of a 14-year-old Detroit boy who was convicted but subsequently cleared of four murders reveals DNA from one of the victims, state police said after a high-tech analysis by a private company.

State police cautioned, however, that it’s “preliminary information.” The company, Cybergenetics, also said the “preliminary unconfirmed results” shouldn’t be used for

civil or criminal justice purposes until more work is done.

But the disclosure adds an odd curve to the saga of Davontae Sanford, who was 14 in 2007 when he was charged with four fatal shootings in his Detroit neighborhood. He pleaded guilty at age 15, although later insisted he was innocent and only made a deal because he felt desperate and poorly represented by his lawyer.

Sanford, now 27, was re-

leased from prison in 2016 after prosecutors said the case was spoiled by police misconduct.

Separately, a professional hit man said he committed the Runyon Street killings, not Sanford. Vincent Smothers gave a detailed account to investigators while Sanford was behind bars. Smothers is in prison for eight killings but hasn’t been charged in the Runyon homicides.

### Mexico City subway says pee causes escalator breakdowns

**MEXICO CITY** (AP)—Travelers on the Mexico City subway system often blame authorities for broken-down escalators at subway stops, but Metro officials have another explanation: vast amounts of pee.

Somehow, urine is penetrating and corroding the drive wheels and mechanisms of the escalators that carry riders up from underground stations.

In a list published Tuesday, the Metro system listed “corrosion due to urine” as one of the top five causes of escalator breakdowns.

Fermin Ramirez, the system’s assistant manager for rails and facilities, said riders appear to be urinating on escalators at off-peak hours and lightly used stations, “even though it seems hard to believe.”

“When we open up escalators for maintenance, there is always urine,” Ramirez said. Most stations have no public bathroom facilities, a fact Twitter users were quick to point out, noting there are not even any pay toilets.

Of the system’s 467 escalators, 22 are out of service on any given day.

The biggest problem, subway authorities admit, is that the many escalators are old, or have been damaged by rough use.

The city plans to replace about 55 escalators over the next two years.

With over 1.6 billion rides per year, the Mexico City subway is considered the eighth largest in the world by some measures, and one of the cheapest: A 25-cent ticket will get you a single ride to any destination on the 140-mile (226-kilometer) system. Just remember to use the bathroom before setting out.

### Rare video shows 5 mountain lions together in California

**JACKSON, Calif.** (AP)—Five California mountain lions were seen together on home surveillance video in a rare gathering of the notoriously solitary big cats.

The footage was recorded at a rural residence at the edge of the El Dorado National Forest east of Sacramento, KTXL-TV reported Wednesday.

“We shared the videos and photos with several of our wildlife biologists, and none of them could recall ever seeing five mountain lions together,” said Peter Tira, spokesman for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

He called the images “extraordinary.”

One of the cougars is bigger than the others, so scientists speculate it’s the mother lion. The others are likely her cubs, but Tira does not believe all of them are from the same litter. Mothers often chase off



This Monday, Jan. 13, 2020 photo from video provided by Chris Bruetsch shows five California mountain lions seen together on home surveillance video at Breutsch’s home in Pioneer, Calif. AP

their cubs after a year, so seeing a family of them is uncommon, he said.

According to biologists, the only time mountain lions are spotted together is either during mating season or when a mother is raising her cubs, but typically only three at most are

seen together.

“They’re not very tolerant of other mountain lions in their territories,” Tira said.

With more home surveillance systems going up, biologists are getting more images of mountain lions in their habitat than ever before, he said.



In this June 9, 2016, file photo, Davontae Sanford stands with his mother, Taminko Sanford, and addresses the media during a news conference in Detroit, a day after being released from prison. AP

#### OFFBEAT BRIEFS

##### Christmas crystal: Man charged with mailing meth to inmate

**MACON, Ga.** (AP)—A man sent some illegal holiday cheer to a woman in jail and he ended up getting arrested himself, officials in a Georgia county say. News outlets report 40-year-old Timothy Lee Snow sent the woman a Christmas card filled with drugs. Bibb County Jail inmate Mary Beth Odum, 40, had told Snow over the phone how to put meth and other drugs into a card to send to her in jail, county sheriff’s officials said Monday. Deputies intercepted a contraband-filled card filled with methamphetamine and Suboxone and began investigating Snow. On Jan. 9, deputies followed Snow as he left his residence and found him with meth, Xanax and a revolver. When they searched his home, deputies found more meth, Suboxone, marijuana, steroids, packing materials, a shotgun and a rifle. Snow was arrested and charged with possession of a firearm, possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute and giving an inmate drugs, news outlets reported. Odum, who was already in jail, now faces additional charges including attempt to commit offenses pertaining to the possession of drugs and use of communica-

tions facilities in a drug transaction. It’s unclear whether Snow has an attorney who can comment on his behalf.

##### Man breaks into Taco Bell, prepares food, takes nap

**LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga.** (AP)—Taco Bell wasn’t open on Christmas Day but a burglar in Georgia decided he wanted a festive feast anyway—and to take a nap while he was at it. Police have asked for the public’s help in identifying the man who broke into the restaurant, prepared food and fell asleep early Christmas morning. At around 12:15 a.m. on Dec. 25, a man approached a Taco Bell in unincorporated Lawrenceville and entered through the drive-thru window. Surveillance video showed him using the fryers to make himself a meal. After eating, he proceeded to take a nap on the restaurant floor. Prior to leaving about three hours later, the suspect stole a laptop and tablet, investigators said. The suspect was described as a black male wearing black sweatpants, a black hooded sweatshirt, and black sneakers. Anyone with information in this case, was urged to contact police at 770-513-5300.

##### Man who is Indiana’s oldest state employee

##### retiring at 102

**INDIANAPOLIS** (AP)—A 102-year-old man who is Indiana’s oldest state employee is retiring after nearly six decades on the job, saying that “your body tells you when it’s time to go.” Bob Vollmer plans to report to work for the last time Feb. 6 as a surveyor for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The southern Indiana man, whose mother lived to be 108, joined the state agency in 1962. The World War II veteran still travels Indiana collecting technical field data and confirming boundary lines for DNR-managed properties, but he said that his body finally is telling him it’s time to retire. “I guess your body tells you when it’s time to go,” Vollmer told WXIN-TV. “Doctors tell me that’s one reason I’m still going. I got good lungs.” Vollmer said he plans to spend his retirement devoting himself to reading and farming. He also plans to take trips to some of the South Pacific islands he was on during his wartime service with the U.S. Navy. Vollmer enlisted in the Navy after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, according to a state announcement in 2016, when Gov. Eric Holcomb awarded him a Sagamore of the Wabash—one of Indiana’s highest honors.

# Science & Technology

## Does the naked body belong on Facebook? It's complicated

**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—When is a photograph of nude bodies artistic or titillating? A woman's exposed nipple a political statement or erotica?

A video of childbirth might show genitalia. Should what someone considers a celebration of life be censored?

In 1964, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart declined to define what constitutes obscenity but famously added, "I know it when I see it."

In the 21st century, does Facebook?

The social media behemoth is in a well-publicized struggle to address hate speech, extremism, abuse and misinformation on its services—which together serve nearly 3 billion people worldwide.

At the same time, it's been retooling its policies on nudity. It's tweaking its original heavy-handed policies to account for modern nuances around gender identity, political speech and self-expression, employing thousands of people and quickly evolving artificial intelligence for the task.



AP  
People maneuver into position as they take part in a mass nude art installation entitled Sea of Hull by New York-based artist Spencer Tunick in Hull, England, Saturday July 9, 2016.

But some of its users—including activists, sex therapists, abuse survivors, artists and sex educators—say policies at Facebook and its Instagram service are still too vague and unevenly enforced. They say their work is being

unfairly censored, condemning them to "Facebook jail" with no warning and little, if any recourse.

And it's no small matter for them. Artists can be suddenly left without their audience, businesses without access to

their customers and vulnerable people without a support network. And it means that a company in Silicon Valley, whose online platforms have become not only our town squares but diaries, magazines, art galleries and protest platforms, gets final say on matters of free speech and self-expression. It's deciding what "community standards" should be for billions of people around the world.

"Instagram really is the

magazine of the world right now. And if artists are being censored on Instagram it's really dangerous for freedom of speech and openness when it comes to the body and art," said Spencer Tunick, a photographer known internationally for his shoots assembling masses of nude people.

Tunick says that more recently he's found his work "shadow-banned" by Instagram, which has become a crucial tool for artists to

showcase their work. His post weren't removed but aren't readily visible to users.

Of course, there's near-universal agreement that child exploitation and nonconsensual images don't belong on social networks. Pornography probably doesn't either.

Facebook's monitoring systems do a better job with nudity than with hate speech, extremism and misinformation. After all, a butt is a butt and a nipple is a nipple. But deciding when a nipple is art, porn or protest gets murky even when humans are doing the deciding. Teaching AI software about human sexual desire is a whole other ballgame.

From its start as a college photo directory and social network, Facebook banned nudity. Over the years, as Facebook's audience grew bigger and more diverse, the ban loosened. The company instituted exceptions for breastfeeding women, for images of post-mastectomy scars. Birth-ing videos are now allowed, as are photos of post-gender reassignment surgery.

### Microsoft ends free Windows 7 security updates on Tuesday

**NEW YORK** (AP)—If you're still using Microsoft's Windows 7, your computer might soon be at risk.

Microsoft will stop providing free security updates for the system on Tuesday, meaning computers using it will be

more vulnerable to malware and hacking.

Users who want to protect their computers need to upgrade to Windows 10. They may also need to buy new computers because older machines might not be compatible with Windows 10.

Tech companies typically phase out older systems after a number of years and focus efforts on updating current versions of software. Windows 7 came out in 2009. Windows 8, which came out in 2012, will have free support end in 2023.

### Tech Q&A: Fixing Bluetooth music in your car

**By STEVE ALEXANDER**  
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.



**Q:** When my iPhone connects to my car via Bluetooth, iTunes will play two songs, then skip through about 25 songs. It will then play two more songs, then skip ahead again. What's wrong?

**A:** Your Bluetooth-equipped car is automatically "pairing" with your iPhone's Bluetooth wireless signal each time you travel. But then the Bluetooth connection is being interrupted, which causes the music to pause or skip ahead. Some potential fixes:

■ Restart your phone. This clears its memory, giving the Bluetooth connection a fresh start.

■ Turn off the car-phone connection and let a new Bluetooth pairing occur. (Turn off the connection by going to

settings and choosing Bluetooth. Tap the "info button" next to the device representing your car, then tap "forget this device." (You will be asked to confirm your choice.)

■ Turn off your phone's Siri digital assistant. When Siri is activated, it interrupts your iPhone's music. (To turn off Siri, see [tinyurl.com/sqce2yr](http://tinyurl.com/sqce2yr).)

■ Disable the "raise to wake" feature that activates

the iPhone's screen when you pick up or bump the phone. (Go to settings and choose "display & brightness," then toggle off "raise to wake.")

—Try deleting songs in iTunes that are the next up to play when the music pauses or skips. Those songs may contain corrupted data that triggers the Bluetooth interruption. You can restore those songs to the phone later.

**Science Matters**

## Roman empire was built on foreign wood

*Ancient Romans relied on long-distance timber trading to build their capital, wooden timbers discovered in a subway excavation have revealed.*

### Wooden foundation beams

These oak timbers laid in horizontal tiers (above) and set vertically as foundation posts (right) supported a porch-like portico in the gardens of via Sannio, a rich and lavishly decorated property in Rome

### Tree rings show the wood came from Gaul

**1** Rings in the wood were compared to an historical database of European tree rings

**2** The rings showed that the oaks were felled between 40 and 60 CE, and the trees grew near each other

**3** Regional growing patterns in 1st Century forests showed the trees grew in the Jura mountains in eastern France



### A possible route

The researchers speculate that the heavy timbers were floated down the Saône and Rhône rivers in present-day France, then shipped over the Mediterranean Sea and up the river Tiber to Rome.

They were transported an estimated 1050 mi. (1700 km)

Source: Mauro Bernabei of National Research Council (Italy); European Space Agency (relief)  
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

# Life & Style

## Postal Service unveils Year of the Rat stamp for Lunar New Year

BY TONY BARBOZA  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

**M**ONTEREY PARK, Calif.—The Postal Service booth did a brisk business Saturday among the street food stalls, vendors and carnival rides that filled Garvey Avenue in Monterey Park during the city's popular Lunar New Year Festival.

"First day of issue! Lunar New Year stamps, get 'em right here," said Rob Lindbloom, a local post office official who waded into the crowd holding a sheet of new postage stamps high above his head. "Commemorate the Year of the Rat!"

The Year of the Rat stamp is the first in a new series the Postal Service is launching to celebrate Lunar New Year, which occurs each year on the second new moon after the winter solstice. The rat is the first animal in the 12-year cycle of the Chinese zodiac, which restarts on Jan. 25 with the Lunar New Year.

The U.S. Postal Service on Saturday formally unveiled the stamp with a phalanx of local officials and sponsors at the opening ceremony of the two-day festival. It marks the third time the Postal Service has launched Lunar New Year stamps, having released a series of them from 1992 to 2005



Michael Henry, left, and Charles Williams of the U.S. Postal Service with a replica of the Year of the Rat stamp at the Lunar New Year Festival in Monterey Park.

LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

and again from 2008 to 2019.

William Chan, himself a postal clerk who lives in Pomona, was in a cheerful mood as he bought some of the new stamps in anticipation of a special occasion later this month, when he will celebrate his 64th birthday, on the day the Year of the Rat begins.

"I'm going to keep them, because I don't know how long I'll have to wait before that happens again," he said. "For me, it's a special year. It's

a double celebration."

Some die-hard collectors showed up at the Postal Service booth first thing in the morning Saturday while workers were still setting up their display of stamps, envelopes, mugs and other commemorative items tied to the Chinese zodiac, Lindbloom said. Some even flew in from out of state just to get the new stamp on the first day it was issued, he said.

"For the rest of the people,

it's just a cool new stamp," he said. "Especially if it's their year."

"We're starting it again because they've proved to be extremely popular over the years," said Luke Grossmann, senior vice president of finance and strategy for the U.S. Postal Service, during the dedication ceremony for the new stamp. "We are very proud of their beautiful and intricate designs."

The stamp depicts a stylized blue-colored rat mask similar to those used in dragon dances performed during Lunar New Year parades. It has small pro-

ies, did not say who he did nominate. A spokeswoman from Scribner, King's publisher, said Wednesday that for now no further comment from him was expected.

Admirers of King, an outspoken liberal, were disheartened by his comments. Author Roxane Gay tweeted that "as a fan, this is painful to read."

"It implies that diversity and quality cannot be synonymous," Gay wrote. "They are not separate things. Quality is everywhere but most industries only believe in quality from one demographic. And now, here you are."

Director Ava DuVernay tweeted: "When you wake up, meditate, stretch, reach for your phone to check on the world and see a tweet from someone you admire that is so backward and ignorant you want to go back to bed."

At a TV critics meeting Wednesday, Cynthia Erivo, this year's lone Oscar acting nominee of color, was asked

"But it is also up to those people who are used to doing things a certain way to shake up their ideas," Erivo said. "Change the way they think, change the way they cast things, change the way they (hire) their producers, their directors and writers and make sure it reflects the world that we live in."

A West Point cadet briefly tried to raise money online to cover travel and lodging costs for an adult film star to be his date for a formal banquet at the storied academy.

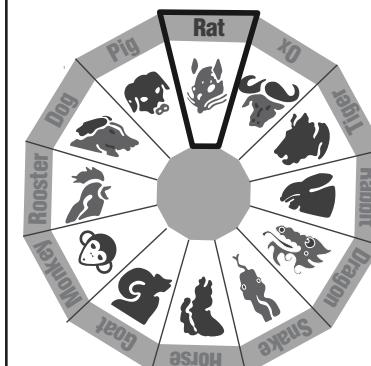
The GoFundMe page was offline Wednesday, but the military news website Task & Purpose said the page titled "Help Me Bring Diamond Foxxx To YWW" was launched this past weekend and had listed \$370 in donations. Foxxx is a veteran adult movie actress and "YWW" refers to the upcoming Yearling Winter Weekend. West Point sophomores are called yearlings.

The cadet wrote that he had no money and asked: "Please help a young boy's dream come true."

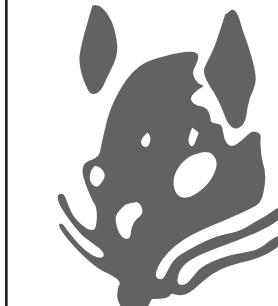
The U.S. Military Academy said Wednesday the cadet had removed the page

### Chinese New Year

This year, Chinese New Year's Day is Jan. 25. According to the Chinese calendar, it's the year 4718.



Rat is the 1st in the 12-year cycle of Chinese zodiac sign. The Years of the Rat include 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008, and 2020.



Source: Chinahighlights.com, travelchinaguide.com  
Graphic: Staff, TNS

**The calendar**  
Each lunar year is governed by one of 12 animals, whose characteristics are tempered by one of the five Chinese elements – metal, water, wood, fire and earth – which overlay a 5-year cycle of characteristics on the original 12-year cycle.

Dates to 2600 B.C., when Emperor Huang Ti introduced the first cycle of the zodiac

### Those born in the Year of the Rat

In Chinese culture, rats represent working diligently and thriftiness, so people born in a Rat year are thought to be wealthy and prosperous. Rats find it easy to start a new relationship with someone, but they also break off relationships easily.

**• Strengths**  
Rich imaginations and sharp observations

**• Weaknesses**  
Trouble with infidelity and lack of courage

then jumped ahead at the last moment to cross the finish line first. For that reason, people born in the Year of the Rat are said to be clever, self-aware and resourceful.

Gordon Lo of Monterey Park, born in 1954 during the Year of the Horse, bought some of the new stamps, saying he thinks he will hold onto them as collectibles, or perhaps as gifts for his grandchildren.

"Because it's finally a new decade," he said. "It's 2020."

### West Point cadet sought donations to host porn star for date

from the site.

"Federal law prohibits members of the military from using their official positions for personal gain," the academy said in a prepared statement.

"This prohibition extends to using or appearing to use ones military status to solicit gifts of money."

Foxxx, replying to questions from The Associated Press on her Instagram account, said the cadet was "very polite and respectful" and that she was "honored" by the invitation as someone from a military family.

She had told him she would attend if he covered the bill for her hotel and a flight from Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

She would not identify the cadet, nor did West Point.

"My only concern is that he doesn't get in trouble," she wrote.

There was no additional

comment from West Point, which has been stressing a culture of dignity and respect as the military tackles the persistent problems of sexual assault and harassment.

It was not clear if the cadet, who used a pseudonym on the GoFundMe page, will face any discipline.

Cadets have attracted critical attention on the web and social media for their behavior several times in recent years.

Last month, some West Point cadets and U.S. Naval Academy midshipmen were scrutinized for flashing what looked like a sideways OK finger gesture during a live television broadcast of the Army-Navy football game.

Military investigators concluded the gestures were part of a game and not a "white power" sign, as some people suggested online. (AP)

## Stephen King criticized for comments on diversity

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Stephen King says he cares only about "quality," not "diversity" when deciding on awards. Some are asking why he thinks the two must be different.

"I would never consider diversity in matters of art. Only quality," King tweeted this week. "It seems to me that to do otherwise would be wrong."

The best-selling author's comments came shortly after the announcement of this year's nominees for the Academy Awards, widely criticized for only choosing male directors and for an almost entirely white group of acting finalists. King wrote that he had been allowed to nominate people for best picture, best adapted screenplay and best original screenplay, and that for him "the diversity issue—as it applies to individual actors and directors, anyway—did not come up."

King, many of whose books have been adapted into mov-

ies, did not say who he did nominate. A spokeswoman from Scribner, King's publisher, said Wednesday that for now no further comment from him was expected.

Admirers of King, an outspoken liberal, were disheartened by his comments. Author Roxane Gay tweeted that "as a fan, this is painful to read."

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At a TV critics meeting Wednesday, Cynthia Erivo, this year's lone Oscar acting nominee of color, was asked

# Weinstein lawyers: 'Circus' atmosphere, juror tweets unfair

**NEW YORK** (AP)—As if picking a jury for Harvey Weinstein's rape trial wasn't complicated enough, some potential jurors have been posting on social media about their involvement in the case, violating court rules that could land them behind bars, the judge said Wednesday as the selection process stretched into a seventh day.

Meanwhile, Weinstein's lawyers are renewing their demand that the trial be moved out of New York City, citing "flash mob" protests in the streets whose chants can be heard 15 stories up in the courtroom and a crush of reporters and photographers that have turned the case into a "media and entertainment circus."

The defense, having lost an earlier change of venue request, said the "carnival-like atmosphere" surrounding jury selection, coupled with the frenzy over supermodel Gigi Hadid's appearance in the jury pool and social media comments by prospective jurors showed Weinstein won't get a fair shake in his hometown.

In the last few days, Judge James Burke has been amplifying his warnings about social media, turning last week's posts into a cautionary tale as he's welcomed groups of 120 or so potential jurors into his Manhattan courtroom.

"The court was alerted recently that a few prospective jurors from last week went on Facebook and Twitter as if I hadn't just said not to, what was it, a hundred times? A thousand times? Was anything I said ambiguous?" Burke said, warning the latest batch of prospective jurors not to do the same.

In all, more than 600 po-

tential jurors have been summoned for the high-profile case. Many were eliminated from contention early on after indicating they couldn't be fair and impartial. Fewer than 200 will be back for additional questioning beginning Thursday.

Burke said he expects a panel of 12 jurors and six alternates to be seated in time for opening statements and testimony on Jan. 22. He told prospective jurors that he expected the trial to finish up in early March.

Hadid, 24, isn't expected to make the cut.

Though she told judge on Monday that she thought she could "keep an open mind on the facts," the defense and prosecutors agreed later that having her on the jury would be too much of a commotion.

Weinstein, 67, is accused of raping a woman in a Manhattan hotel room in 2013 and sexually assaulting another in 2006. The former studio boss behind such Oscar winners as "Pulp Fiction" and "Shakespeare in Love" has said any sexual activity was consensual.

Walking the latest batches of prospective jurors through what to expect—and what not to do—the judge said anyone posting about their jury service in the Weinstein case faces being held in contempt of court and consequences including up to 30 days in jail. He warned them not to speak about the case with anyone.

Weinstein's lawyers raised the social media issue in court papers last week. They cited postings from several people they said were prospective jurors as they made an unsuccessful push to conduct the remainder of jury selection in



AP  
Harvey Weinstein arrives for jury selection in his trial on rape and sexual assault charges, in New York, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020.

private, out of the view of the news media and the public.

One man purportedly in the running for Weinstein's jury tweeted about leveraging "serving on the jury of a high-profile case" to promote a nov-

el he wrote. Another potential juror reacted with a laughing emoji when someone asked if she'd been picked, according to Weinstein's lawyers.

The disgraced movie mogul and his lawyers spent the first hour of Wednesday's court session behind closed doors, working with prosecutors to whittle down the pool of prospective jurors by examining responses to a questionnaire each was asked to fill out.

## No rematch for 'Jeopardy' mega-champion Ken Jennings

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Here's one thing "Jeopardy!" fans can bet on after a gripping "Greatest of All Time" tournament: there won't be a rematch.

"I'm out," said Ken Jennings, the veteran who beat young hotshot James Holzhauer and Brad Rutter to take a \$1 million prize in the tournament that stretched out over four entertaining nights on ABC's prime-time schedule.

Jennings was the first to win three matches, while Holzhauer won one and Rutter none. Jennings won Tuesday's broadcast when, with the game on the line, Holzhauer whiffed on a question about Shakespearean dramas.

Jennings, who established himself in "Jeopardy!" lore by winning a still-record 74 games

in a row in 2004, said in an interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday that he's starting to feel his 45 years when it comes to high-stakes competition.

"I'm really happy to get one last hurrah," he said, "but I don't think I can top this. At some point (host) Alex (Trebek) is going to retire and I can't ever see playing with a different host, quite honestly. It wouldn't be the same."

That has to be bad news for ABC, which saw the tournament become a hit. The first three matches all reached around 15 million viewers last week before Tuesday's match slipped to 13.5 million, the Nielsen company said. A four-



Jennings

day break may have slowed momentum.

A series of second-place finishes in "Jeopardy!" tournaments through the past few years motivated Jennings this time around.

"It's a sports cliché, but I almost wonder if I wanted it more than the other two did," he said. "I got a lot of breaks. I ended up playing better than I thought I would, but honestly, I just wanted to win."

To beat Holzhauer, a 36-year-old professional sports bettor, he had to play Holzhauer's style.

"I had looked at so much tape of James trying to figure the guy out and the only way

to beat James is to become James," he said. "You have to not be intimidated by his shock and awe approach to the game and you're going to have to do it, too: hop around for the Daily Doubles, bet big at every opportunity. It just shows what a dominant player he is."

It was admittedly stressful, and he was uncomfortable at first making the type of wagers Holzhauer would traditionally make to pummel his competitors into submission.

"As it went on, you can see the dark side seducing you," he said. "It gets easier and easier every time to become a James Holzhauer-style Las Vegas gambler. I'm glad the tournament ended when it did before I totally split into Vegas-style depravity."

## Separated man is in no hurry to file for divorce

**D**EAR ABBY: I have been dating my boyfriend for almost a year. I love him, and we have an undeniable connection I have never had with anyone else. The problem is, he's separated but not yet divorced from his wife.

I have a hard time moving forward in the relationship and meeting his family when he hasn't filed for divorce. He says he's going to file, and he doesn't seem to think it's a big deal, but meeting his son and family members under these circumstances makes me uncomfortable. It's almost like this is a test run to see if I'll fit the part before he finalizes everything.

He and his wife have been separated for only a year, and I'm ready to start a family. Our timing seems off, but he treats me so well it's hard to let him go. Should I put our relationship on hold until he finalizes his divorce, or will he resent me because I'm not being supportive? What if his separation is only temporary, and he's just having fun? Could I be a side chick?

HAVING DOUBTS IN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR HAVING DOUBTS:** You are asking intelligent questions. You have been supportive for quite some time now. Have the two of you actually discussed getting married and starting a family? If you haven't, you should, so you have some idea of whether his separation is temporary and what a realistic time frame would be. Once you know

what that is, it couldn't hurt to meet his son and his family, if only to see how they react to you.

As to whether you could be this man's side chick, it depends upon how long you plan to remain in a holding pattern, waiting for him to do something concrete. Some women wait for years only to have things not work out as they had hoped.

**DEAR ABBY:** My sister "Dana" spent decades taking care of our disabled sister, which meant Dana and her family sacrificing greatly to provide for her care. The rest of us siblings live out of town and shared none of the responsibility.

Our disabled sister passed away recently, leaving an estate that is now in probate. I suggested to my other siblings that before the estate is divided equally, we should set aside enough for Dana and her husband to take a long-overdue and well-deserved vacation. It's something I know Dana has been longing for, but they won't hear of it!

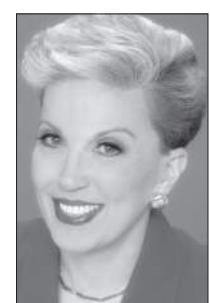
I can't believe my siblings are acting this way. They say Dana can take a vacation on what she inherits, but that's not the point. While we all had free weekends and could take vacations, Dana was extremely limited because our disabled sister couldn't travel and needed a caregiver. How do I change my siblings' view?

DISAPPOINTED BROTHER

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

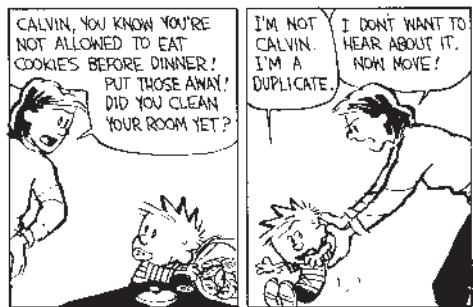


**DEAR BROTHER:** Your sentiments are laudable, but there is no way to force your greedy siblings into doing anything for Dana. It appears your disabled sister died without a will, which could have ensured that Dana was repaid for her efforts. Your letter highlights the importance of putting last wishes in writing, preferably with the assistance of an attorney. I cannot emphasize this strongly enough.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbook Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®



By Jim Davis



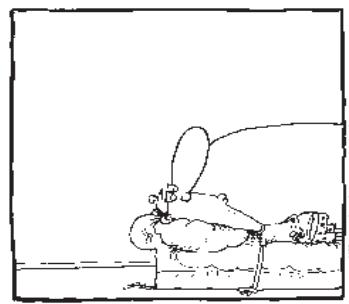
## Adam@home



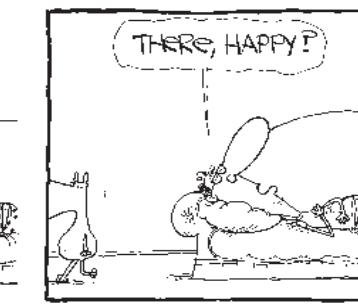
By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

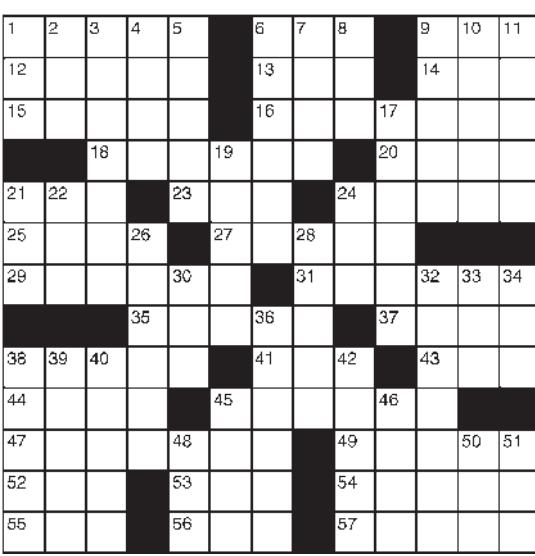


## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

| ACROSS   | 44         | Golf bag   | 2   | Consume    | 22  | Convene   | 63 | Michelle Obama, 56; Jim Carrey, 58; Steve Harvey, 63; Betty White, 98. |
|----------|------------|------------|-----|------------|-----|-----------|----|--|
| 1        | Insurance  | item       | 3   | Highway    | 24  | "Norma    |    |  |
| giant    |            |            | 45  | Elvis'     | —   | —         |    |  |
| 6        | USN        | birthplace | 47  | Item       | 26  | Spotted   |    |  |
| officers |            |            | 48  | queen of   | 28  | Muscle    |    |  |
| 9        | Crow's     | carried    | 49  | Jordan     | woe | woe       |    |  |
| cry      |            | by a       | 50  | God, in    | 30  | Cistern   |    |  |
| 12       | Yule tune  | dog        | 51  | Islam      | 32  | On-air    |    |  |
| 13       | Where      | walker     | 52  | Caron of   | 33  | gaffe     |    |  |
| Lux. is  |            |            | 53  | "Gigi"     | 34  | Corn      |    |  |
| 14       | "Eureka!"  | Trade      | 54  | Trade      | 35  | spike     |    |  |
| 15       | Pub        | shows      | 55  | Collection | 36  | "Science  |    |  |
| perch    |            |            | 56  | Salt       | 37  | guy" Bill |    |  |
| 16       | Busybody   | Lake       | 57  | Lake       | 38  | Hardy's   |    |  |
| 18       | Delphi     | athlete    | 58  | athlete    | 39  | partner   |    |  |
| figure   |            |            | 59  | Wonderful  | 40  | — fit     |    |  |
| 20       | Baby       | Property   | 60  | Life"      | 41  | Rainbow-  |    |  |
| carriage |            | claims     | 61  | seats"     | 42  | shaped    |    |  |
| 21       | Diamond    | director   | 62  | "It's a    | 43  | Winter    |    |  |
| arbiter  |            |            | 63  | Wonderful  | 44  | footgear  |    |  |
| 23       | "Bali —"   | Gridiron   | 64  | Life"      | 45  | Facial    |    |  |
| 24       | Peruses    | stats      | 65  | Gridiron   | 46  | treat-    |    |  |
| 25       | Future     | Heats up   | 66  | 10         | 62  | ments     |    |  |
| flower   |            |            | 67  | Winning    | in  | 47        |    |  |
| 27       | Pie nut    | 11         | 68  | Heats up   | 63  | Head,     |    |  |
| 29       | Tried hard | 12         | 69  | 11         | 64  | to        |    |  |
| 31       | Deli       | 13         | 70  | Prank      | 65  | Henri     |    |  |
| sandwich |            | 14         | 71  | DOWN       | 66  | 62, in    |    |  |
| 35       | Gibbs or   | 15         | 72  | Constitu-  | 67  | Roman     |    |  |
| Maples   |            | 16         | 73  | tion       | 68  | numerals  |    |  |
| 37       | Stage      | 17         | 74  | 1 Rm.      | 69  |           |    |  |
| show     |            | 18         | 75  | coolers    | 70  |           |    |  |
| 38       | Custom     | 19         | 76  | letters    | 71  |           |    |  |
| 41       | Pump       | 20         | 77  |            | 72  |           |    |  |
| up the   | volume     | 21         | 78  |            | 73  |           |    |  |
| 43       | Tramcar    | 22         | 79  |            | 74  |           |    |  |
| contents |            | 23         | 80  |            | 75  |           |    |  |
|          |            | 24         | 81  |            | 76  |           |    |  |
|          |            | 25         | 82  |            | 77  |           |    |  |
|          |            | 26         | 83  |            | 78  |           |    |  |
|          |            | 27         | 84  |            | 79  |           |    |  |
|          |            | 28         | 85  |            | 80  |           |    |  |
|          |            | 29         | 86  |            | 81  |           |    |  |
|          |            | 30         | 87  |            | 82  |           |    |  |
|          |            | 31         | 88  |            | 83  |           |    |  |
|          |            | 32         | 89  |            | 84  |           |    |  |
|          |            | 33         | 90  |            | 85  |           |    |  |
|          |            | 34         | 91  |            | 86  |           |    |  |
|          |            | 35         | 92  |            | 87  |           |    |  |
|          |            | 36         | 93  |            | 88  |           |    |  |
|          |            | 37         | 94  |            | 89  |           |    |  |
|          |            | 38         | 95  |            | 90  |           |    |  |
|          |            | 39         | 96  |            | 91  |           |    |  |
|          |            | 40         | 97  |            | 92  |           |    |  |
|          |            | 41         | 98  |            | 93  |           |    |  |
|          |            | 42         | 99  |            | 94  |           |    |  |
|          |            | 43         | 100 |            | 95  |           |    |  |
|          |            | 44         |     |            |     |           |    |  |
|          |            | 45         |     |            |     |           |    |  |
|          |            | 46         |     |            |     |           |    |  |
|          |            | 47         |     |            |     |           |    |  |
|          |            | 48         |     |            |     |           |    |  |
|          |            | 49         |     |            |     |           |    |  |
|          |            | 50         |     |            |     |           |    |  |
|          |            | 51         |     |            |     |           |    |  |
|          |            | 52         |     |            |     |           |    |  |
|          |            | 53         |     |            |     |           |    |  |
|          |            | 54         |     |            |     |           |    |  |
|          |            | 55         |     |            |     |           |    |  |

Yesterday's answer 1-17



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**STUMPED?**

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## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | 3 | 2 |   | 8 |   |   |  |
| 2 | 4 |   |   | 6 |   | 9 |  |
| 8 | 4 |   |   |   |   | 5 |  |
| 1 |   |   |   | 3 | 6 |   |  |
| 4 |   | 9 |   |   | 1 | 3 |  |
| 5 | 2 | 3 |   |   |   |   |  |
| 1 |   |   | 8 | 2 | 9 |   |  |

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
| 1 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 8 |
| 4 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 3 |
| 6 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 4 |
| 3 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 5 |
| 2 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 1 |
| 5 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| 9 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 6 |
| 7 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 9 |

Difficulty Level ★★★

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUDET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backwords. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

### STARTING A FIRE

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |     |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|---|---|---|
| E | R | K | E | K | O | M | S | E | L | K | C   | A | R | C |
| G | R | I | I | E | K | A | R | O | O | D | T   | U | O | L |
| N | O | I | S | W | O | L | L | A | M | H | S   | R | A | M |
| I | O | S | F | E | P | E | E | T | T | O | O</ |   |   |   |

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# Mets remain silent on Beltran's future

**NEW YORK** (AP)—While the Houston Astros and Boston Red Sox took decisive action in jettisoning their managers after Major League Baseball concluded they were involved in nefarious sign stealing, the New York Mets have stayed silent on Carlos Beltran's future.

Houston fired AJ Hinch one hour after baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred released his findings Monday. Boston's management took 29 1/2 hours to announce Alex Cora's departure on Tuesday.

Beltran remains in limbo, with the Mets refusing to say whether their new manager stays or goes. In Manfred's nine-page statement, Beltran was the only player identified as a participant in the cheating scheme.

"They have to fire Carlos Beltran," a former New York Yankees teammate, Mark Teixeira, said Wednesday on ESPN, where he works as an analyst. "There's no way that Carlos Beltran, especially in the pressure cooker of New York, there's no way he can be the manager of the Mets. ... You cannot have that guy lead your team. The New York papers, the Daily News and the Post and all of the tabloids will eat up Carlos Beltran every single day until he's fired."

Cora was Houston's bench coach in 2017 and the instigator of the Astros' use of a camera in center field and monitor near the dugout to steal catchers' signals.

"Approximately two months into the 2017 season, a group of players, including Carlos Beltran, discussed that the team could improve on decoding opposing teams' signs and communicating the signs to the batter," Manfred wrote.

Hinch and Astros general



manager Jeff Luhnow received one-season suspensions before owner Jim Crane fired them. Manfred decided not to discipline players — 2017 was Beltran's final season.

Mets management must ponder whether Beltran can be an effective leader given his behavior. Would young players view him as a cheater pushing them to break the rules? Would Beltran turn tim-

id, afraid of attracting scrutiny from MLB investigators?

What would be the benefit of sticking with Beltran, who has no previous managerial experience?

Red Sox owner John Henry,

In this Tuesday, June 9, 2009 file photo, New York Mets Alex Cora (3) greets Carlos Beltran at the plate after Beltran's third-inning two-run home run off Philadelphia Phillies pitcher J.A. Happ in a baseball game at Citi Field in New York.

AP

chairman Tom Werner, CEO Sam Kennedy and chief baseball officer Chaim Bloom concluded Cora could not remain in Boston under similar circumstances.

"Alex by his own admission, and we agreed, played a central role in what went on in Houston," Werner said. "We all agreed that it was wrong and that we had a responsibility as stewards, as John had said, to have a standard here where that sort of behavior is not acceptable."

Kennedy said it wasn't a close call.

"While it was difficult personally for a lot of people, professionally it was ultimately an easy decision for the Red Sox and for Alex. It was a mutual decision," Kennedy said. "Alex came to the conclusion that he could not effectively lead the organization going forward in light of the commissioner's findings and the ruling. And we came to that conclusion as well."

Beltran's playing time with the Mets is best remembered for when he walked away — from home plate after taking a called third strike from St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Adam Wainwright that ended a 3-1 loss in Game 7 of the 2006 NL Championship Series with the bases loaded.

As Mets manager, he might be none and done.

"I wish Carlos Beltran had the signs after I walked in the 2006 playoffs," tweeted former Met Paul LoDuca, whose walk loaded the bases and brought Beltran to the plate.

## Red Sox begin search for new manager

The Boston Red Sox need to find a new manager, and it sounds like they haven't gotten over their old one.

Heaping praise on Cora a day after showing him the door, Red Sox owner John Henry said on Wednesday the team was going to miss "just about everything" about the man who led Boston to the 2018 World Series title only to be torpedoed in a cheating scandal.

"It was a sad day because we all have such respect for Alex," said chairman Tom Werner, who was one of several Red Sox officials keeping in touch with the deposed manager since his departure. "He admitted that what he did was wrong, but that doesn't mitigate, in our opinion, the extraordinary talent that he has. And we continue to be very fond of Alex."

"We would ask that everyone to reserve judgment until MLB completes its investigation and determines whether rules were violated," Henry said. "I can tell you that we are working with baseball to the fullest extent possible."

The decision leaves the Red Sox, who went 84-78 and missed the playoffs last year for the first time since 2015, without a manager and less than a month to find one before spring training. Chief baseball officer Chaim Bloom, who was hired in October, said he hadn't had time yet to formulate a short list.

Bloom said there will be internal candidates, along with ones from outside the organization. Among those who have been mentioned are Jason Varitek, the former catcher who is now a special assistant, and bench coach Ron Roenicke, who managed the Milwaukee Brewers from 2011-15.

**PHOENIX** (AP)—If Major League Baseball really wants to stop its teams from electronically stealing signs, it might consider fighting technology with more technology.

In a sport that's increasingly driven by analytics and advancements, the majority of signs between players and coaches are still transmitted by low-tech hand signals that have been used for decades.

Those hand signals are easily captured by the loads of video equipment around MLB stadiums that are used for television, replays and all kinds of stat tracking.

All that technology can be—and obviously has been—used for cheating. The Houston Astros were hit with stiff punishment on Monday

## To stop sign stealing, MLB could fight tech with more tech

after an MLB investigation found the team used electronics to steal signs during the franchise's run to the 2017 World Series title and again in the 2018 season. Manager AJ Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow were suspended for a season and then fired by Astros owner Jim Crane.

Boston manager Alex Cora was fired on Tuesday for his involvement with the Astros' scheme and a separate ongoing investigation that involves the Red Sox.

Considering those developments, it might be wise to save players and coaches from themselves.

A partial model is already in place: The NCAA's South-

eastern Conference has used electronic communication between coaches and catchers during league games for the past two seasons, which allows the coach to talk strategy with the catcher through an earpiece. It's much like the NFL, where an offensive coach tells plays to a quarterback.

No hand signals needed. "I don't know why everyone isn't doing it—it's fantastic," LSU coach Paul Mainieri said. "It allows the coach to speak directly to the catcher and speeds up the game."

In the SEC's system, the catcher still has to relay signs to the pitcher the old-fashioned way with hand signals, but Mainieri said there's no

reason why pitchers couldn't eventually be included in the conversation. It's more common for coaches to call pitches in college, while catchers usually handle those responsibilities in the big leagues.

MLB expects to show players some prototypes of pitcher-catcher communication devices at spring training camps this year, but there are no plans to put any of them in place.

It would be unrealistic for a big league catcher to talk with the pitcher with a batter standing right next to him. Ole Miss coach Mike Bianco said there could be ways to work around that problem, suggesting that a clicker or some other device could be employed.

legal and time-honored part of baseball as long as it is done with the naked eye. Using technology is prohibited.

There's a wide variety of opinion about how much technological cheating is actually happening and how effective it can be. Arizona Diamondbacks general manager Mike Hazen said in November that he didn't think it was a widespread problem.

"I think MLB has done a really good job of cleaning up all of that stuff. It's been a topic for a few years," Hazen said shortly after the news broke that the Astros were being investigated by MLB. "There's a lot of restrictions in place, there's a lot of guidance in the clubhouse, oversight, in a good way."

# Mariota helping Titans on, off field despite being benched



NASHVILLE,  
Tenn. (AP) —

The Tennessee Titans benched Marcus Mariota for Ryan Tannehill in mid-October after a 2-4 start. Finding the No. 2 pick overall from the 2015 draft isn't that hard during their amazing playoff run.

Just keep an eye on the field.

The Titans (11-7) have gotten Mariota into each of their past three games with him completing a pass in two games while going out for a pass just last week. Coach Mike Vrabel makes clear they plan to keep tapping him as long as he's still on the roster.

"Well, we just like to try to have a role for everybody that's active in the game," Vrabel said. "And Marcus not only had a role in the game, but will continue to have a roll in the game. He helped us prepare last week. I know that he'll do the same thing this week. He's been very supportive of Ryan, so we'll keep finding ways for him to help us during the games."

Mariota had a 92.3 passer rating during the regular season with seven touchdown passes and only two interceptions before being pulled in the third quarter of a 16-0 loss in Denver on Oct. 13. The Titans switched to Tannehill looking for more on offense, and they averaged 30.4 points the rest of the regular season.

That's left Mariota running the scout team, and he's helped by pretending to be Deshaun Watson, Tom Brady, Lamar Jackson and now defending NFL MVP Patrick Mahomes in practice as the Titans prepare to visit the Kansas City Chiefs (13-4) on Sunday in the AFC championship game.

"I take every single day



AP

Tennessee Titans quarterback Marcus Mariota (8) fires a pass against the Jacksonville Jaguars during the first half of an NFL game Thursday, Sept. 19, 2019, in Jacksonville, Fla.

and I try to make the most of it," Mariota said Wednesday before practice. "We have a great defense, and for me, it's an opportunity to get better. Anyway I can help this team and try to mimic or emulate what these guys are during the game, I'm going to do it. I'm just going to try to help our guys out."

That's not all Mariota has done.

Mariota wound up on the field in the regular-season finale at Houston, throwing a 24-yard pass to rookie A.J. Brown.

"He told me (during) the week he was going to throw me the ball if he checked it," Brown said. "I knew the ball was coming to me. He told me to score, and I was kind of gassed at the moment. I was kind of down I didn't score on that play."

Mariota also came on the field in Foxborough, Massachusetts, during the Titans' 20-13 wild-card win over the Patriots. He completed a 4-yard pass to tight end MyCole Pruitt on the eighth play of the Titans' opening drive. Coming in for one play and one throw isn't what Mariota had been used to having started 61 of 63 games since the 2014 Heisman Trophy winner was drafted out of Oregon.

"It's different for me for sure, but I appreciate the fact that I get to be out there with the guys," Mariota said. "Every single time, every single moment that you're on the field I never take it for granted."

And he might've scored against Baltimore last week in the divisional round if only Derrick Henry hadn't thrown

into triple coverage to Corey Davis with his jump pass. Mariota was wide open out to the right, but Davis always was the intended target.

Kansas City coach Andy Reid remembers well Mariota leading the Titans to a 22-21 wild-card win on Jan. 6, 2018, when he even caught his own pass. So Reid is well aware that the Titans can use Mariota as another option.

"That's one of the benefits to having him there," Reid said. "He's a Heisman winner, he can run the ball, he can throw the ball. He's a good football player. You've got to be ready for that."

Mariota earned \$20.9 million this season with the Titans picking up the fifth-year option on his rookie contract. With Tannehill and the Titans thriving together, Mariota will

be a free agent March 18 with a new team in his future. Mariota says he's focusing only on one day at a time.

"If I can just be present here and help our guys out, help this team out, everything else will fall into place," Mariota said.

Meanwhile, King Henry is running wild in the postseason.

Derrick Henry has the Tennessee Titans one step away from an unlikely trip to the Super Bowl.

They got this far because their running back has been unstoppable. Henry has led the Titans to a pair of upset wins on the road, becoming the first player with two games of 175 yards rushing or more in the same postseason.

He rushed for 182 yards and a touchdown in a win at New England in the wild-card game and followed up with

a franchise-record 195 yards rushing in Tennessee's win over No. 1 seed Baltimore in the divisional round.

Henry is 123 yards away from joining John Riggins (610 yards rushing in 1982) and Terrell Davis (581 in 1997) as the only players with at least 500 rushing yards in a single postseason in NFL history.

Henry, who led the NFL with 1,540 yards rushing in the regular season, is trying to join Davis, Emmit Smith and Shaun Alexander as the only rushing leaders to reach the Super Bowl in the same season. Smith did it three times.

Henry also has tossed a 3-yard jump pass for a touchdown against Baltimore, the first TD pass by a running back in the playoffs since Minnesota's Allen Rice did it in 1987.



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# Magic snap Lakers' 9-game winning streak



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Markelle Fultz faked LeBron James off his hip, weaved through traffic in the waning seconds and scored the final bucket of his phenomenal triple-double performance.

Fultz then dropped to the court with a cramp. The Orlando Magic rushed to their valuable teammate's aid, with Nikola Vucevic swiftly stretching out Fultz's foot to make sure he could finish.

"It was the biggest play of the game!" Vucevic said with a laugh.

Fultz had several bigger ones, and so did a half-dozen contributors to what was likely the Magic's best win of the season.

Fultz hit two big layups in the final minute while scoring 21 points during his second career triple-double, and Orlando snapped the Los Angeles Lakers' nine-game winning streak with a 119-118 victory Wednesday night.

Fultz added 11 rebounds and 10 assists, while Aaron Gordon had 21 points and a late go-ahead basket as the Magic became the first sub-.500 team to beat the Western Conference-leading Lakers this season despite blowing a 21-point lead in the second half.

James had 19 points and matched his career high with 19 assists, but he also missed a tying 3-pointer with 3 seconds left. The Lakers showed off their impressive depth in the absence of Anthony Davis, but they couldn't overcome the Magic's superb contributions from up and down the roster.



Los Angeles Lakers guard Quinn Cook, right, tries to pass the ball while under pressure from Orlando Magic forward Gary Clark, left, and forward BJ Johnson during the second half of an NBA game Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2020, in Los Angeles. AP

of right shoulder soreness.

## Raptors 130, Thunder 121

In Oklahoma, Norman Powell scored 23 points, and Toronto held off a furious rally and beat Oklahoma City.

Pascal Siakam and OG Anunoby each added 21 points for the Raptors, who shot a season-high 61.2% from the field.

Dennis Schroder scored 25 points, Danilo Gallinari scored 23 and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 21 for the Thunder, who cut a 30-point deficit to three before Toronto held on.

## Pacers 104, Timberwolves 99

In Minneapolis, Domantas Sabonis matched a season high with 29 points and added 13 rebounds and six assists to lead Indiana over Minnesota.

Malcolm Brogdon added 21 points and Doug McDermott scored 14 off the bench for the Pacers, who have won three straight.

Jarrett Culver led Minnesota with 17 points and Gorgui Dieng had 15 points and 11 boards. The Timberwolves have lost three in a row.

## Nuggets 100, Hornets 86

In Denver, rookie reserve Michael Porter Jr. scored 19 points and recent call-up P.J. Dozier had a big debut filling in for injured point guard Jamal Murray in the second half of a win over Charlotte.

Murray exited the game with 1:32 remaining in the second quarter after rolling his left ankle.

Dozier finished with 12 points in 13 minutes, including a stretch in the second half where he scored nine straight for the Nuggets.

## Mavericks 127, Kings 123

In Sacramento, Luka Doncic had 25 points, 15 rebounds and a career-high 17 assists for his NBA-leading 12th triple-double, and Dallas held off a late run to beat the Kings.

Chicago placed seven players in double figures in its second win in its last nine games. Thaddeus Young had 18 points and eight boards, and Tomas Satoransky scored 18 points against his former team.

Beal scored 23 points on 8-for-13 shooting after he was listed as questionable because

De'Aaron Fox had 27 points and 12 assists for Sacramento.

## Senior tour long, long ways off for Mickelson



LA QUINTA, Calif. (AP)—Five months away from his 50th birthday, Phil Mickelson is still a long, long ways from the senior tour.

"When I stop hitting bombs I'll play the Champions Tour, but I'm hitting some crazy bombs right now," Mickelson said Wednesday, a day before he opens the year at The American Express.

Mickelson is doubling as tournament host at the desert pro-am event that has a new title sponsor and name.

"I want to make sure it's a first-class experience for everybody here, that the CEOs that we have brought in, that the people we have brought in have this great experience," Mickelson said.

Competing for the first time since early November, he showed up at PGA West

a little better prepared than usual because of his added responsibilities as host.

"I'm spending a little bit more time making sure that the week goes well for everybody," said Mickelson, the tournament winner in 2002 and 2004. "So, I had to spend the last seven, 10 days working with (swing coach) Andrew Getson and working with (short game coach) Dave Pelz getting my game sharp so that I was ready when I got here. I think I am, but until you tee it up, you really don't know."

After a fast start last year with a second-place tie at PGA West and a victory at Pebble Beach, Mickelson struggled the rest of the year.

"I'm curious as probably anybody is to see how well I play," Mickelson said. "I've tried to address a lot of weaknesses or areas that needed

to improve and my motivation is back. This is the best I've felt in years, maybe even decades. Physically, there's nothing holding me back from playing some of my best golf."

Instead of the PGA Tour Champions, the Hall of Famer is focused on making the U.S. Ryder Cup team after failing to qualify for the Presidents Cup.

"I don't often voice too many goals, but one of them is to make the Ryder Cup," Mickelson said. "So, I need to play enough tournaments out here and play well to be able to achieve that particular goal."

He only wants to play in the Ryder Cup if he qualifies.

"I don't want to be a pick. I've got to earn it," Mickelson said. "I'm at the point where I've got to earn my spot. There's eight spots out

there and if I play well I'll make it. If I play to the level that I believe I'm capable of I'll make the team. But if not, you've got to give those spots to some younger guys that haven't had the chance to play and compete the way I have."

Lefty will play alongside Tony Finau the first three days, opening Thursday at La Quinta Country Club in the second group off the first tee. They will play PGA West's Jack Nicklaus Tournament Course on Friday, then the adjacent Stadium Course—also the site of the final round—on Saturday.

Defending champion Adam Long and Paul Casey will tee off in the group ahead of Mickelson and Finau on Thursday, with wind expected to gust to 25 mph after two windy weeks for the tour in Hawaii.

ris scored 34 points, including two big baskets in the final two minutes that proved to be the difference, as the 76ers topped Brooklyn.

Ben Simmons had 20 points and 11 assists for the 76ers, who improved to 19-2 at home.

Brooklyn has lost nine of 11 overall and six straight away from home. The Nets were led by Spencer Dinwiddie's 26 points and eight assists. Jarrett Allen had 17 points.

## Pistons 113, Celtics 103

In Boston, Sekou Doumbouya scored a season-high 24 points and Detroit snapped a three-game losing streak with a win over Boston.

Markieff Morris matched his season best with 23 points. Derrick Rose added 22 points and Sviatoslav Mykhailiuk had a season-high 21. The Pistons shot a season-best 60.3% from the field.

Andre Drummond added 13 points and 13 rebounds to post his 34th double-double of the season.

## Bulls 115, Wizards 106

In Chicago, Zach LaVine had 30 points, seven rebounds and seven assists, and banged-up Bulls beat Bradley Beal and Washington.

Chicago placed seven players in double figures in its second win in its last nine games. Thaddeus Young had 18 points and eight boards, and Tomas Satoransky scored 18 points against his former team.

Beal scored 23 points on 8-for-13 shooting after he was listed as questionable because

## Mavericks 127, Kings 123

In Sacramento, Luka Doncic had 25 points, 15 rebounds and a career-high 17 assists for his NBA-leading 12th triple-double, and Dallas held off a late run to beat the Kings.

Seth Curry scored 21 points off the bench as Dallas won its third straight despite the absence of Kristaps Porzingis, who missed his ninth consecutive game. Dwight Powell added 17 points and nine rebounds, and Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 18.

De'Aaron Fox had 27 points and 12 assists for Sacramento.

# Coco vs Venus Part II in Australian Open opener



M E L -  
BOURNE,  
Australia

(AP)—Get ready for Coco Gauff vs Venus Williams, Part II.

That headline-grabbing pair of tennis players—Gauff, 15, is the youngest woman in the Australian Open; Venus is the oldest—will meet again in the first round of a Grand Slam tournament after Thursday's draw at Melbourne Park put them in a tough quarter that also includes Serena Williams and Naomi Osaka.

Gauff had a breakout run at Wimbledon last year, when she became the youngest qualifier in tournament history, upset Venus Williams to start her main draw run and became the youngest player to reach the round of 16 there since Martina Hingis in 1996.

The winner of Coco vs Venus—no last names required—could meet defending champion Osaka in the third round. The winner there potentially faces Venus' younger sister, 23-time major winner Serena, in the quarterfinals.

Serena Williams is coming off a victory in the ASB Classic in Auckland, her first title since her victory at the 2017 Australian Open and her time off the tour to have her daughter. She is seeded eighth in Melbourne and will meet Anastasia Potapova in the first round. Osaka opens against Marie Bouzkova.

Defending men's champion Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer were drawn into the same half of the field at Melbourne Park, where play begins Monday, so they could meet in the semifinals.

The second-ranked Djokovic has won a record seven Australian Open trophies and is coming off his un-



Coco Gauff will meet Venus Williams again in the first round of a Grand Slam tournament.

AP

beaten run at the inaugural ATP Cup, where he guided Serbia to the title. Federer hasn't added to his 20 Grand Slam titles since winning the Australian Open in 2018, his sixth title at Melbourne Park.

Top-ranked Rafael Nadal could face a fourth-round match against Nick Kyrgios—their blockbuster at Wimbledon last year was memorable—and a projected quarterfinal against Dominic Thiem, the man he has beaten in the last two French Open finals.

The so-called Big Three of men's tennis joined other stars, including Serena Williams, Osaka and Gauff, at the Rally for Relief on Wednesday night, an exhibition event that raised

millions of dollars for relief efforts for the wildfires that have devastated parts of Australia, leaving at least 27 people and millions of animals dead. Smoke from the bush fires had the air quality in Melbourne ranked among the worst in the world earlier in the week.

On the court, Gauff looked comfortable and relaxed in the company of champions.

Osaka, speaking before the draw was revealed, said she didn't like to look at who she was playing until the day before her match. She joked in a TV broadcast that she'd leave the studio if she was forced to watch the draw. It will certainly have her interest.

Osaka won back-to-back majors, claiming her first Grand Slam title at the 2018 U.S. Open before winning in Australia last year. Her best run since then was to the fourth round at the U.S. Open, where she thinks she got some benefit from the experience.

"I had a try at being defending champion at the U.S. Open. I'm more prepared this time," she said.

Top-ranked Ash Barty is in the same half of the field and is a potential semifinal opponent for Osaka.

Barty will open against Lesia Tsurenko. That quarter includes 10th-seeded Madison Keys, the U.S. Open runner-up in 2017, and seventh-seeded Petra Kvitova, a two-time Wimbledon champion and the runner-up in Australia last year in her first major final since a violent home invasion in late 2016 left her with career-threatening hand injuries.

Serena Williams is aiming to equal the all-time record for most women's majors, held by Australia's Margaret Court.

After her drought-breaking run to a 73rd career singles title in Auckland, Williams will again be among the favorites at Melbourne Park, where she has won the title seven times dating back to 2003.

In other standout first-round matches, five-time major champion Maria Sharapova, playing as a wild card because of an injury-interrupted 2019, will meet 19th-seeded Donna Vekic, and two-time major champion Simona Halep, the runner-up here in 2018, will take on Jennifer Brady, who upset Barty at the Brisbane International last week.

On the men's side, U.S. Open finalist Daniil Medvedev, seeded No. 4, will take on Frances Tiafoe, who made a breakthrough run to the quarterfinals in Australia last year.

should be when striking the shuttle. It was really good to know and correct ourselves so we could implement that in our game as well as teach that on to others. We also got to play with him and he's a pretty good player as well," Guerrero said.

Jung, through interpreter Tommy Kim, said he is pleased to find out badminton is an active sport on island and he is happy to help the players, especially the young ones.

He added that he felt it's like a mission for him to come to Saipan and meet national players.

When asked to assess CNMI players, the South Korean said they have good competition skills and if you add technical and physical strengths to it that would make them more successful in tournaments.

Jung admitted he did not have a lot of time to share more about the sport, especially the technical side of it, so he will be back to Saipan this April to conduct longer sessions. (PR)



Eats Easy players and their supporters pose with their trophy after beating Paire Football Club, 5-3, in the finals of the 8x8 NMIFA Winter Masters League 2019 last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## EATS

From Page 32

first two goals in the match, opening up Eats Easy's scoring in the 12th minute and getting his second just seven minutes later.

Paire then finally countered in the 25th minute, thanks to Patrick McCallion's shot, to remain in contention. East Easy kept the shaky lead at the break after frustrating Paire's repeated attempts to knot the count in the first half.

When the play resumed, Schultz

picked up where he left off. At this time, Paire's had already knew his reputations and tightened up its defense, but still the visiting player found a way to fire back.

The former pro lit up the board anew in the 42nd minute for Eats Easy's 3-1 advantage, but Paire refused to give up and got the next two goals in a bid to spoil Schultz's CNMI debut. Ajani Burrell's shot less than a minute after Schultz's third goal moved Paire within one, while McCallion nailed the equalizer in the 50th.

The match remained in a standoff for a while before Schultz saved the

day for Eats Easy. He broke the deadlock in the 68th minute with the highlight goal of the game, as he zigzag his way past two Paire defenders before unloading the shot just a few yards inside the penalty area. The visiting player then sealed the deal for Eats Easy with his fifth goal in the 70th minute.

Eats Easy finished the Winter League unbeaten in five games, as it swept the round-robin play and topped Matansa in the semis before outclassing Paire in the finals.

Meanwhile, Los Viejos won the battle for third place after outgunning Matansa in a penalty shootout, 2-0.



Northern Marianas Badminton Association members and officials join South Korean Ji Woong Jung, center, for a photo after the clinic last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



# Saipan Tribune Sports

32 FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2020

**Mets remain silent on Beltran's future**

Page 28



SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Eats Easy's Emil Schultz, center, takes care of the ball during the first half of their title match against Paire Football Club in the 8x8 NMIFA Winter Masters League 2019 last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Eats Easy takes title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**E**ats Easy completed its perfect run in the 8x8 NMIFA Winter Masters League 2019 with a 5-3 finals victory over Paire Football Club last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



Emil Schultz, who has been on Eats Easy's roster even before the short competition started, showed up in the last day of the event and made the most of his one-and-done performance in the tournament, knocking all five goals in the championship game.

With Paire focusing on stopping league No. 1 scorer, Martin Jambor, Schultz had their opponent's defense paying the price for it, as the latter scored at will to power Eats Easy to the title win. The former player of Inter Bratislava in Slovakia and Queen's Park Rovers in Sydney, Australia delivered the

See EATS on Page 31

## South Korean coach conducts badminton clinic

**NMBA** A South Korean coach conducted a clinic for Northern Marianas Badminton Association players recently at the TSL Sports Complex.

Ji Woong Jung of Sahagu Sports Club in Busan worked with NMBA players last Sunday and Monday, demonstrating basic movement and footwork and other helpful drills. NMBA officials and members, and players who represented the CNMI to the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa attended the brief sessions.

"We are very thankful to Mr. Jung for taking time out from his short vacation on Saipan to reach out to our players and share his skills to us. Since we started the organization, it's been a challenge for our players to get coaching so

See SOUTH on Page 31



Ji Woong Jung conducts a badminton drill during a clinic at the TSL Sports Complex last Sunday. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Victory still elusive for CNMI

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



The CNMI is still winless in the World Baseball Softball Confederation 15-Under Oceania Qualifier.

The Commonwealth bents bowed to host Guam yesterday, 1-11, to absorb their fourth straight loss in the three-nation tournament. New Zealand is the third team entered in the competition and holds a 3-1 mark, the same record Guam has.

The CNMI debuted in the tournament last Monday and suffered a 1-18 beating from New Zealand. Albert Adriano scored the lone run for the team, while Dylan Santos and Christopher Gonzales were the pitchers.

For its second game last Tuesday, the CNMI played better, but still fell to Guam, 5-9. The visiting squad managed to tie the game after scoring five goals at the bottom of the second inning before being shut down in the last five. Joel Borja had two RBIs and one run in the loss.



GUAM MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

CNMI players look on as the ceremonial pitch is thrown during their opening game in the World Baseball Softball Confederation 15-Under Oceania Qualifier against New Zealand last Monday in Guam.

The CNMI then met New Zealand anew last Wednesday and though the former made three early runs, the latter was still able to control the game by firing 15 runs in the first two innings en route to a 20-9 win. The Kiwis finished the game after only four and half innings. Gregorio Pangelinan logged two RBIs in their second outing versus New Zealand, while Joshua Atalig had one RBI.

The CNMI will play New Zealand for the third time today and Guam tomorrow, while the playoff round between the Top 2 teams will be on Sunday. The winner of the qualifier will compete in the World Baseball Softball Confederation 15-Under Oceania Tournament this year.